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Deck the halls.

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First death mars Asian Games



South Korean equestrian Kim Hyung-chil died after falling from his horse during the equestrian competition on a slippery course yesterday at the Doha Asian Games, becoming the first athlete in the games' history to die in competition.

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Pavillion

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Volunteers to be recruited in anti-drug campaign

By He Jianwei

To mark the 2007 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the city will recruit more than 10,000 anti-drug volunteers beginning this month until June next year.

Volunteers are expected to help in anti-drug educational campaigns, give seminars to recovering drug addicts and report knowledge of drug trafficking and drug use.

The city has already carried out anti-drug campaigns in Beijing's entertainment districts, and officials hope more volunteers will come from these crucial areas.

Though the volunteers provide gratis service, they will receive a reward if police receive a positive tip about drug use and drug trafficking activities. The reward can be anywhere from 1,000-10,000 yuan, depending

on the information provided.

In order to protect the volunteers' security, Beijing's Public Security Bureau has allocated 2 million yuan to train them.

Anyone over 18 and without a drug trafficking criminal record can become a volunteer. This includes not only locals but foreigners. The authorities also welcome recovered drug addicts to strengthen their recovery program and to make the anti-

drug message resonate with current drug users.

In 2001, Beijing had an anti-drug recruitment drive, but due to bad management attracted only 3,000 volunteers. People who are interested in volunteering can apply via bjjdzx.org or the Beijing's Anti-Drug Team office (No 109 A Xuanwumenxidajie, Xuanwu District) or call telephone number 8739 5626 and 8626 0626.

Big cities say it's better by bike, bus

By Jackie Zhang

Beginning next year, 70 cities across the country will take part in the annual international No Car Day on September 22, making China one of 38 countries worldwide to participate in the event.

The Ministry of Construction this October proposed that No Car Day be held in cities with populations of more than 500,000. Last weekend, mayors of the 70 Chinese cities that meet that criterion, including Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Tianjin and Shenzhen, signed an agreement to hold the annual activity.

This commits municipal authorities to encourage residents to walk, cycle or take public transport rather than drive, between 7am and 7pm every September 22. The 70 cities will also invest in better public transportation facilities, adding new bus lines and building more bus and bicycle parking areas.

No Car Day was first held in France in 1998. In 1999, more than 150 cities in countries including France, Italy and Switzerland took part. By 2002, nine European Union member states had declared September 22 to be No Car Day. To date, some 1,500 towns and cities in 37 countries have taken part in the No Car Day activity.

Brief news

Fire deaths toll up

Over 17,000 fires across the country last month left 103 people dead, an increased death toll of more than 94 percent on the previous month, the Ministry of Public Security said this week.

Banking crimes down

There has been a total of some 780 banking crimes in the first ten months of this year, a drop of more than 20 percent on the figure for the same period of last year, said the China Banking Regulatory Commission.

Fewer SOEs

The number of central government state-owned enterprises (SOEs) is to be reduced by restructuring from the current 160 to 100 or less by 2010, said Shao Ning, vice director of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission Wednesday.

Higher customs revenue

Customs revenue has risen to over 565 billion yuan (US\$72 billion) in the first 11 months of this year, up some 18 percent on the same period last year, the General Administration of Customs announced this week.

Three spam emails a day

On average, Internet users in China receive around three spam emails each day, accounting for some 60 percent of the total emails they receive, according to the latest statistics released by the Internet Society of China.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Press pool take plunge at cube



The aquatic sports center for the 2008 Olympics, known as 'The Cube', opened its doors to the media for the first time. CFP Photo

'Most luxurious' hotel opens doors

By Huang Daohen

Pingxi Wang Fu, located in Changping District's Wendu Water World, is positioning itself as the nation's most luxurious hotel. It's named after a Qing Dynasty prince and has been built where his palace used to stand. With a price tag of 220,000 yuan for an overnight stay, the establishment said that its target customers are world leaders and global tycoons.

The hotel aims to replicate the life of Chinese royalty, with guests served by hotel staff clad in Qing court dress. The furniture are replicas of period pieces, such as a mahogany couch worth

1.8 million yuan, carved with 999 dragons. To emphasize the quality of their service, Pingxi Wang Fu can only accommodate up to 20 guests at a time.

But some critics raise their eyebrows at the hotel's exorbitant price. "The cost is so high, who will go and spend the night there?" said a Mr Li. "If it's for the Forbidden City or an ancient European castle, it may be worth 220,000 yuan a night, but it's only a replica of the real Pingxi Wang Fu."

The hotel management, however, said that the price is based on market forces, and that they wanted to sell the

cultural experience, not just the luxurious lifestyle. When consulted, the Beijing Tourism Bureau agreed that hotels are, indeed, allowed to fix prices based on market trends.

Despite the high price tag, the hotel isn't opening its doors to just anyone who has the money. Soon after it began operating this week, two to three people already expressed interest in the hotel, but were turned away for failure to verify their identity. "Money is not the only thing we're after. We want to attract customers who are cultivated and well educated," said the hotel.

Largest auto auction opens for business

By Huang Daohen

China's largest auction center for second-hand automobiles, Beijing Zhongguo Auction Center, held its first auction last Sunday. The center, located in Fengtai district, covers an area of 3,600 square meters and seats 1,300 bidders.

The center has space on site for more than 1,000 vehicles, and is networked with other dealers across the country, allowing nationwide trading in more than 2,000 autos a day.

The company has a website where buyers can register bids on vehicles. "Our new online auctions are being run on a trial basis, to try and meet demand in China's fast developing auto market," said Wang Yufeng, from Beijing Zhongguo. "With the growth of the used vehicle trade in Beijing, consumers may prefer to trade online."

Figures from the Beijing Used Automobile Market Association confirm a huge potential for the second-hand auto market in China. Estimates of the trade volume in second-hand autos in Beijing in 2010 expect to hit around 350,000 vehicles a year, similar to sales of new autos.

Inner city canals revived

By Annie Wei

The Beijing Water Authority said on Sunday that the inner city's canal system has now been successfully interconnected. This was announced shortly after they opened a 1,823m-long passage between the Chaoyang and Henggongjin Park canals.

For a city facing water resource problems, Beijing used to have a rich canal network. Until the government decided to stop the service, boats ferried passengers

from the Summer Palace's Kunming Lake to Houhai in northwestern Beijing.

The current canal system traverses the Summer Palace, Beihuchenghe (around the North Second Ring Road), Landmark Canal, Chaoyang Park and Nanhuachenghe (along the South Second Ring Road). However, authorities said there's still no way for visitors to travel around Beijing on the canals because the water's too shallow.

Copycat web swapper wants house for paper-clip

By Chen Shasha

Wang Xiaoguang, a 23-year-old woman known online as Ai Qingqing, who last month began documenting online her attempt to swap a paper clip for a house within 100 days, has now succeeded in getting a month running a Xinjiang restaurant in the Jianwei SOHO area, but it's not all been plain sailing.

She got the idea for the swap from Kyle MacDonald, a 26-year-old Canadian man who succeeded in his quest to barter one red paper-clip all the way up to a house over a year and 14 trades.

"I thought it was an interesting idea, and I hope I can do the same thing," Ai Qingqing said. She started swapping on October 15, also starting her trades with a red paper-clip. Her first swap brought her a photograph, which she then traded for a jade Buddha.

Her next trade saw an expat woman swap a mobile phone for the Buddha. "I was greatly encouraged by this woman, and it made me believe that I could eventually get my house," Qingqing said.

Lost job

Trading actually took a turn for the worse. Even stopping people on the street didn't produce any swaps for a number of days. Then her boss told her her hobby was affecting her work and told her to give up the scheme or quit her job.

Qingqing chose to quit, partly she says out of loyalty to her growing online audience. "More and more people were following my trades, and I felt I couldn't stop," Qingqing said. She was also attracting media attention, which at last helped her swap the phone for a necklace, then trade again for a digital camera, a valuable stamp and a bottle of wine worth more than 8,000 yuan.

Success began to exact a price. Qingqing felt she was being used by some potential swappers, and she was also attracting criticism. Some said she had cheated a foreigner and lost face for the Chinese people when she got the mobile phone. Others said if she achieves her goal, it will be unfair on those who work hard for little reward. She was accused of being part of a viral marketing campaign.

Exposed

Then someone noticed that Qingqing had been a participant in hit TV talent contest *Super Girl*, making the Hangzhou regional finals. This brought more doubts that she was not who she claimed to be. On November 14, Ai Qingqing was guest on a popular TV talk show. The host said a six-year-old girl wanted to swap a picture for the bottle of wine, as a birthday gift for her grandfather, but Qingqing refused. Although Qingqing gave her own gift for the girl, this brought her further condemnation and accusations of greed.

The negative comment has left Qingqing perplexed. "I don't know what's best to do now. The media presented all this different versions of me. I don't know whom I can trust."

Blood donors wanted

By Han Manman

Beijing's Red Cross Blood Center (BRCBC) is experiencing a severe shortage of blood. The center says it's nearly run out of Type O and is urging residents to make blood donations.

According to BRCBC, the center's average daily collection

for this month is 450 units, significantly lower than last month's 760 units. The levels are dangerously low, considering that hospitals use up between 900 and 1,400 units of blood a day. The center's blood inventory currently stands at 2,796 units, well short of its

5,000-unit target, says Shi Xin, director of BRCBC's public relations department.

Shi identifies two reasons for the shortage: cold temperatures make people hesitant to venture out and visit the blood donation buses that roam the city, and the city has terminated its nine-

year-old blood donation quotas, bringing an end to compulsory blood donation. In the past, the blood bank would submit a quota to colleges and state-run companies, via circulars issued by the municipal government, asking students and employees to 'voluntarily' donate blood.

Private museum records Japanese crimes in Nanjing

'Nanjing civilian anti-Japanese war historical data museum', the first privately financed museum of its kind, will officially open to the public on December 13, the date Nanjing was occupied by the Japanese Imperial Army forces in 1934.

CFP Photo



Two decades on, top dancer still living her dream

By Chen Shasha

Chen Ailian, a pioneer of solo dance in China, will give her 500th performance of the lead role in a ballet version of the classic story *The Dream of the Red Chamber* this Friday evening at Beijing University. She first performed the piece in 1981.

Chen, now 66, was one of the first ballet dancers in China, and has been performing for over fifty years. As a teenager, she starred in China's first dance drama, *Mermaid*, hailed by critics as China's *Swan Lake*.

Chen laments the fact that since the 1980s traditional Chinese dance drama has ceded the stage to modern shows and western dramas. "When I was invited to take part in China's first opera and dance drama year in 1997, I was astonished that more than 90 percent of shows and scripts were from abroad," she said. Chen considered retiring but decided she had a responsibility to maintain the tradition of Chinese dance.

The Dream of the Red Chamber, an adaptation of the famous Qing dynasty novel, is Chen's favorite piece. "Young people can learn about Chinese culture from the story," she said.

Yunnan to introduce compulsory HIV tests for newly-weds

By He Jianwei

Couples living in parts of Yunnan Province, one of the regions of China worst hit by HIV, will have to take a compulsory HIV test before being allowed to marry, once new regulations take effect from January 1, 2007.

Tests will be provided free to target groups in those areas of Yunnan where HIV is particularly prevalent, as defined by national and local health authorities. A list of locations where the new regulations are to be enforced will be made public at a future date, authorities say.

As of the end of September

this year, 47,314 people living with HIV were recorded in Yunnan, almost a quarter of China's reported total of cases. People have tested positive for HIV in 128 of the province's 129 counties, according to the Provincial Committee for AIDS Prevention and Control.

China's Health Ministry reported last week that the number of people officially reported as HIV positive had risen by 27.5 percent since the beginning of the year, to more than 180,000 at the end of October.

The ministry and the World Health Organization estimate China has about 650,000

people living with HIV/AIDS, including 75,000 who have developed AIDS.

Prospective spouses have been able to take a free HIV test at marriage registry offices since January. The service is offered with the cooperation of the Department of Civil Administration and Department of Health.

Testing was voluntary and results available within two days. There is at least one test center in every county.

Between January to September this year, 66,000 people in Yunnan registering for marriage took HIV tests, with just 0.03 percent testing positive.

Beijing stop for 'Guerrilla Shop'

By He Jianwei

UniversalSHOPS, a traveling design project featuring the works of a shifting group of more than twenty artists, designers, musicians and illustrators, will open one of its 'Guerrilla Shops' in Beijing's Caoyangdi between December 2 and January 7 in the new year.

With a style reminiscent of street sellers pushing the limits of the law, the shop will show and sell t-shirts, posters, CDs, DVDs, shoes, balloons, toys, clothes and other items similar to those seen on stalls in the city's streets and underpasses. Like their street counterparts it's cheap too; items shown in



Photo provided by Universal Studios

the exhibition will sell for less than 100 yuan.

Hong Kong-born artist Fu Jie will display CDs and her range of handbags, suitcases and slippers. Beijing-based designers UNMASK will show some of their

innovative cloth toys, music critic Yan Jun and friends will be selling a range of CDs.

The UniversalSHOPS project presents an interactive exhibition that seeks to recreate the energy, dynamism and deviance of China's vibrant street culture. Promoters say the show "highlights the need for a new negotiation of social life and space in which the gap between art and public is increasingly blurred," and that the exhibition examines issues of consumerism and cultural production.

The exhibition will travel to Madrid, Amsterdam and Oslo next year.

Shenzhen public sex trial: whose shame?

By Huang Daohen

Wearing surgical masks and dazzling yellow clothes, ladies of the night, forced out into the day, cover their faces to stand public trial.

Under tight police escort, more than 100 patrons and prostitutes were paraded before thousands of residents through Futian in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province. Their names, birth dates and places were made public following the announcement of their punishment.

However, the controversial event brought strong public reaction, and many departments have voiced concern. The All-China Women's Federation (AWF) made an internal protest to the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) last Friday. MPS instructed the Shenzhen Municipal Public Security Bureau (SMPSB) to conduct an investigation, and said some police officials may be punished.

The event: Futian public trial

The public trial came during the boom city's two-month long crackdown on the illegal sex trade. During the campaign, the police hit the sex trade in karaoke bars, saunas and barbers. The crackdown snared 167 prostitutes and patrons.

Criminals were marched into the street and tried in front of the public in Futian's Shangsha and Xiasha villages, Nov 29. Each was sentenced to 15 days administrative detention.



Pornographic crime suspects are put on public trial in Futian District, Shenzhen.

CFP Photo

Women's Federation: violation of civil rights

The AWF was first to protest the police's move. The public trial was a severe infringement of the basic civil rights of the female suspects, and is an indirect insult to the image of Chinese women, a federation spokeswoman said.

"The public parade damages the criminal suspects' self-esteem," she said, "with the development of human civilization, such barbaric punishment has no place in a modern society."

Lawyer: police infringe on prostitutes' right

Yao Jianguo, a lawyer from the Shanghai Rushuo Legal Firm, wrote to the National People's Congress this Tuesday to slam the Shenzhen police's controversial move, calling it illegal and noting it will result in vicious denunciations of China by overseas media.

Yao wrote the local police had the prostitutes and patrons parade around, which exceeded the scope of the process. He says the law should protect everyone's rights and self-esteem – criminal or not.

"As a lawyer, I don't expect the Congress to do as I say, but I must make clear the police's actions are illegal," Yao said.

Public

The majority of the public, based on a Baidu.com survey, questioned the controversial move's effectiveness. They agreed solicitation should be morally condemned, but in a socialist legal society, they should be dealt with according to the law.

"The public parade does not send a warning to other criminal suspects," it only humiliates the

suspects and is likely to induce anti-government sentiments, one Sina.com blogger wrote.

Shenzhen authorities respond

At a media conference, an SMPSB spokesman said the city's bureau had no advance notice about the trial. The trial was organized and carried out by the Futian Public Security Bureau. The spokesman stressed the purpose was to deter sex offenders, and also create momentum for the sex-trade crackdown. He refused comment on whether the move broke the law.



Staff members of Tianhe Voice edit programs.

Photo by Brook Wang

By Jackie Zhang

Tianhe Voice, China's only TV station established for and managed by prisoners, celebrated its third birthday last week. Since its 2003 foundation in Tianhe Prison, it has drawn attention from local and foreign media.

Prisoner staff

Choosing editors and TV hosts in prison is different than choosing them in outside society. When selecting staff for Voice, prison managers have a lot to consider.

Prisoners who perform well and who have professional skills, like computer-use, photography, writing and editing, are favored candidates. Past experience work-

ing in TV stations or other media weighs heavily in getting an opportunity.

Voice's director has changed several times. Some directors have been transferred to other prisons, and others have been released. The current director, Lan Lin, was director of the China Asian TV Center on the outside. When he was sent to Tianhe Prison in 2004, he was assigned to work in the station as a reward for his good performance and professional experience.

Another prisoner, Li Jing, faces a death sentence with two-year reprieve. She has served one ten-year sentence in Tianhe Prison

Broadcasting life on the inside

already. When Voice started, she was selected as a host for her looks and voice. In her three years, Li has become a famous host in the prison even though she started with no experience.

"I used to be an introverted person. I'm not strong-willed, and I don't like to communicate with others. However, since I started hosting the TV station, I've changed a lot," she said.

Since Tianhe Prison is the only prison in China in charge of transferring prisoners to other provinces, all prisoners sentenced in Beijing courts are first sent to Tianhe Prison. This role has supplied the prison with an ample pool of qualified prisoners.

Police in the prison said prisoners have different terms of imprisonment, so the station's staff has a continual turnover. "In three years, there have been a dozen of prisoners involved in producing Voice," a policeman said. "Voice is different from the

TV stations on the outside. Its programs are very focused, so it has a lot of influence within the prison. The station has become a part of prisoners' lives."

Programs reflect prison life

Voice is just for prisoners. All its programs are made by the prisoners themselves, and reflect their lives on the inside.

The director, Lan Lin, said they made a program last Spring Festival about a meeting between a father and son; the two were detained in the same prison but never knew it. "The prison manager arranged for them to meet at Spring Festival to help them face their lives and correct their mistakes. After the news was broadcast on Voice, everyone, even the police, was moved," Lan said.

The station's news comes from two sources. One is information provided by responsible police, such as major prison events and future rules. The other

is via contributions from 'part-time reporters' in different cell-blocks. These reporters' weekly assignments have helped break many of Voice's stories. Whether big or small, little news slips by the station.

Yang Hua, warden of Tianhe Prison, said the prisoners were organized to watch Beijing News and CCTV news everyday. "However, these programs have little relation to prison life. The programs on Voice are all about our prison community. Not only do the programs teach prisoners about society, but they also can connect them with their families."

At present, Voice has 15 programs including the popular *News Viewpoint*, *Society Connection*, *Series Interview* and *Olympic English*. The station has produced more than 160 programs in three years.

The center was built in 1995 and moved to Tiantanghe in Daxing District in 2000.

Confucius puts jailbirds back on right road

Beijing, December 4 (scotsman.com) – A Chinese jail has turned to the teachings of Confucius to put its inmates on a righteous path.

Changchun Beijiao Prison in the north-eastern province of Jilin has a 'Confucian Classroom' and closed circuit TVs send the ancient sage's thoughts into cells.

"The study of Chinese traditional culture can help inmates cultivate virtues and form good behaviors," warden Yang Mingchang said in the prison.

Denounced as feudalistic in Mao's Cultural Revolution, Confucius's 2,500-year-old ideas of filial piety and respect for education have found renewed favor since the 1990s.

Interview with the editor:

We've heard that China is promoting the culture of harmony worldwide by setting up Confucius Institutes. We believe it is a good thing.



Teenage inmates in an education center in Chongqing. Confucian education has been mooted as a means to reform wayward youth.

CFP Photo

Modern society needs more than just competition. The western world has experienced too much competition and too many wars during its modernization.

Many intellectuals and non-government organizations have been appealing for compromises,

harmony and peace during the process around the world.

Governments call for harmony within their own countries, but not outside their boundaries, where they believe profit and war are the only two ways to solve problems.

China is trying to establish new principles between countries, societies, races and cultures. The education in jails prefigure and test how they will work out.

– Mark Lenningtown, senior editor, Scotsman.com
(By Zhao Hongyi)

Curb on excessive payment

Beijing, December 4 (PTI) – Public criticism of 'excessive pay' for staff in state-owned enterprises (SOEs), especially those in monopoly sectors, has prompted the Chinese government to issue an order restricting such salaries, the official media reported today.

Local governments are asked to ensure pay mechanisms are linked to business performance.

SOEs are able to earn big profits because of their monopoly status in their business sectors.

Instead of handing over the excessive profits to the government, the SOEs have been paying their staff – managers and ordinary workers – very high wages, arousing public anger.

Salaries in electricity, petroleum, finance and telecommunications enterprises are hotly debated on the Internet.

The *Beijing News* reports public pressure led to a 20-50 percent drop in salaries in the electricity sector this year.

Comment:

The new regulations may succeed to some extent, but won't do anything about welfare and benefits in kind.

High income at state monopolies stems mainly from two factors: monopoly status and high profit. So they will stay high if their monopoly status remains.

We need to break up their monopoly status and make jobs in these industries open to public competition, which will see salaries decided by the market.

– Professor Li Shi, Beijing Normal University
(By Jiang Xubo)

Beijing to move radio, TV masts from downtown



CCTV's broadcast tower used to be a symbol of the capital.

Photo by sina.com

Beijing, November 30 (PTI) – Beijing will move four radio and TV masts to new sites in the next five years to reduce downtown radiation pollution, the municipal government promised to the local media.

Two China National Radio towers and a Beijing Radio mast in Chaoyang District, as well as a backup China Central TV tower in Yuetan Park, will all be moved, deputy director of the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau, Du Shaozhong said.

"Electromagnetic radiation from the four towers is within limits, but they represent too high an electromagnetic radiation risk for densely-populated nearby residential areas," he said.

Shaozhong did not say where the four masts would be relocated.

In the next five years, Beijing will impose strict environmental protection requirements on the location of new electromagnetic radiation facilities.

The capital would also deal with other polluting emission masts, relocating them as necessary, the official said, adding that a radioactive waste storehouse in the suburbs of Beijing will soon be completed and commissioned.

Expert comment:

Electromagnetic radiation pollution can harm the human body in a number of ways. As well as discomfort like headaches, it can even lead to fetal anomalies with prolonged exposure, so this is an important issue.

The number of sources of electromagnetic radiation is burgeoning, and people have been surrounded by various kinds of masts operating at different frequencies. We have to revise current safety standards, and draft new regulations to protect the environment and safeguard people's health.

– Wang Xiaomo, Chinese Academy of Engineering
(By Jiang Xubo)



Lighting fireworks is a Chinese tradition. Photo by sina.com

Upper age ban on firework sales

Beijing (AFP) – The municipal authorities have reportedly banned anyone over 60 from selling fireworks for the traditional New Year celebrations.

Local media reports the age limit has been placed on vendors who have to take a test for safety reasons between December 10 and January 13.

"Firework sellers must be able to escape and also help others in case of an emergency," Li Weijia, head of the bureau of dangerous chemical products, said.

Governments ordered to compensate for fraud

Beijing (AFP) – China has ordered local governments to make up shortfalls in social security funds after it found 7.1 billion yuan (US\$900 million) had been siphoned off for bogus uses.

Last month, the National Audit Office unearthed a total of 7.1 billion yuan in social security funds that were misappropriated.

Most of the missing funds were found being used for construction of government buildings unauthorized overseas investment and loans to companies.

China to prosecute deliberate HIV infections

Beijing (Reuters) – China will prosecute people who deliberately infect others with HIV.

"Those who know they are infected with AIDS or are sick with AIDS and deliberately infect others will be severely punished according to the law," the *Beijing News* said.

Police would also deal just as severely with criminal suspects who have AIDS as those who do not, the report said.

China has been grappling with a surge in the number of HIV/AIDS cases, which had risen 30 percent this year to 650,000 people.

Perfect weather forecast for Olympics

Beijing (Reuters) – Three 'weather sentinel' satellites will ensure accurate forecasts for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The plans were unveiled by Luo Ge, deputy chief of the China National Space Administration.

In addition to one already in service, "we will launch a geostationary meteorological satellite soon and four more of the series will follow in the next five years," Luo said.

By the time the Olympics come around, three will be in service, meaning forecasters will be able to get a 'cloud map' of China every 15 minutes – half the current interval.

China issues oil sales rules to open the market

Beijing, December 7 (Dow Jones) – China's Ministry of Commerce Wednesday issued rules for the country's crude oil wholesale and storage market, in a move aimed at opening up the sector to a wider range of companies including foreign-invested firms.

The ministry said that, for one, a company must apply for a license through the relevant provincial government for it to operate a crude oil

wholesale and storage business.

The ministry will have the final say on whether the license will be granted. The rules will take effect Jan 1, 2007.

The rules are part of China's commitments to the World Trade Organization. China promised to open the oil market both to foreign investors and domestic private operators beginning Dec 11.

Foreign companies have been

banned from the lucrative crude oil wholesale and storage sector, which has been dominated by China's four state-owned big oil companies, China National Petroleum Corp, China Petrochemical Corp, China National Offshore Oil Corp and Sinochem Corp. Some private companies operate in the sector but only on a limited basis.

If foreign-backed companies want to acquire domestic compa-

nies related to the crude sales or storage businesses, they also must send their applications to the relevant provincial governments.

The ministry made no mention of other requirements that foreign-invested companies must meet when applying for the licenses.

China will fully open its banking and insurance markets to overseas investors the same day under its WTO promise.

Amway, Mary Kay and Perfect win direct selling permits

Shanghai, December 4 (Reuters) – US cosmetics and healthcare product firms Amway, Mary Kay and Perfect have won approval for their direct selling model in China just before a deadline, a Ministry of Commerce spokesman said.

This brings the number of holders of direct-selling licenses here to 13, including 10 foreign-funded companies.

The firms, which count Avon Products Inc and Nu Skin Enterprises Inc among their rivals, were awarded licenses on Dec 1, the last day before a ban on unlicensed door-to-door selling.

In 1998, Beijing launched regulations aimed at curtailing domestic pyramid schemes, where direct sellers were forced also to sell products in beauty boutiques. The ministry last year began reviewing applications ahead of a full ban this month.

Amway, whose sales in the country of 15 billion yuan (US\$1.9 billion) last year accounted for almost one-third of its global total, had been facing a possible end to its business model in the country, a company official said.

The firm has over 180,000 registered sales representatives in the country, where sales last year were almost nine times bigger than those of its main global competitor, Avon, according to data from the China Health Care Association.

Avon, the world's largest direct seller of cosmetics, won approval in February to return to its favored direct-selling model, followed by Nu Skin in July.

Avon recruits 300,000 promoters

Beijing, December 5 (Xinhua) – Cosmetics firm Avon said it has recruited 300,000 licensed door-to-door sales persons in China this year.

Avon's network of some 6,000 boutiques in China shrank to 5,400, as it shifts to its more traditional business of door-to-door sales.

Avon says it will use the China Post to deliver its products.

SK-II comes back on sale



Beijing, December 5 (Kyodo) – A range of popular beauty products taken off the market because of safety fears have once again gone on sale.

The SK-II range of products, produced by US consumer products group Procter &

Gamble Co, formally went on sale in the southern city of Guangzhou on Sunday, Xinhua News Agency reported.

It says special counters selling the brand will open up in stores in other provinces over the coming weeks.

Chinese authorities found 12 SK-II products imported from Japan contained chromium and neodymium in September this year.

Thousands of people flocked to department stores to return the products. **Xinhua Photo**

Baidu plans Japan foray

Beijing, December 5 (AFP) – Chinese Internet search engine company, Baidu, often referred to as the local Google, plans to enter the Japanese market in 2007.

Following half a year of research into the local market,

Baidu is ready to launch in Japan, the Nasdaq-listed company said in a statement.

"Our proven strength in non-English language search, the high Internet penetration in Japan, as well as similarities between

the Chinese and Japanese languages make this market ideal for Baidu," CEO Robin Li said.

"We are confident that Japanese users will appreciate Baidu's powerful Japanese language search technology," He said.

Goldman meat deal expects approval

Beijing, December 5 (Reuters) – China's Ministry of Commerce expects to give the go-ahead to a bid led by Goldman Sachs to acquire China's largest meat-processing company sometime soon.

A consortium led by Goldman Sachs, called Rotary Vortex, won a bid to buy the Shuanghui group, also known as Shineway Group, for

around US\$250 million in May.

However, the deal is awaiting approval from the ministry since the State Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, the agency that oversees state firms, gave its initial nod in August.

Guo Jingyi, deputy head of the ministry's treaty and law department, said the deal was recently

permitted to go ahead.

Authorities have been dragging their feet on approving some major foreign investments in Chinese firms, fearing China might be selling its assets too cheaply. Deals that have been stalled are largely in strategic areas of the economy such as heavy machinery, not in consumer goods.

China to issue 3G telecom licenses 'very soon'

Beijing, December 5 (AFP) – China will issue the long-awaited licenses to build the third generation (3G) mobile phone networks 'very soon.'

"I cannot provide a specific timetable but it could happen very

soon," Wang Xudong, minister of information industry, was quoted by the local media.

He emphasized China's promise of enabling operators to offer 3G services during the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing was "well-

founded and feasible."

Some industry observers believe licenses could be awarded in the first quarter of next year.

"Government bodies are studying how many licenses – three or four – are needed," Wang said.

China becomes net exporter of steel

Beijing, December 6 (AFP) – China has become a net exporter of steel for the first time in more than 20 years.

Steel exports reached 33 million metric tons in the first 10 months of this year, up 92 percent from the same period in 2005. Imports dropped by 29 percent to 15.5 million metric tons.

Nuclear power contract winner to be announced

Beijing, December 2 (AFP) – China will decide the winner of a long-awaited, multi-billion-dollar nuclear power contract this month, with companies from France and the United States in the running.

France's Areva and Westinghouse of the United States are front-runners in the bidding for four "third generation" nuclear reactors that will be built in Sanmen, Zhejiang Province, and in Yangjiang, Guangdong Province.

GE wins US\$160M Olympic contracts

Beijing, December 5 (AP) – General Electric, one of the 11 top sponsors of the International Olympic Committee, has won contracts worth US\$160 million from the 2008 Games.

GE's goal is to win US\$800 million in contracts from Beijing Olympics-related projects in power generation and distribution, lighting, security and water treatment. GE had a revenue of US\$5 billion in China last year.

ECI to upgrade power network

Beijing, December 2 (globes.co.il) – ECI is supplying its optical communications network products, namely XDM option solution and LightSoft network management system, to help Beijing Power prepare for the Olympics.

ECI's XDM optical solution will be used to expand the network, providing Beijing Power with additional bandwidth capacity to handle peak demand during the Games.

Belfast tech firm opens Beijing office

Beijing, December 5 (sbpost.ie) – Andor Technology, an Irish developer and manufacturer of highly sophisticated scientific cameras and systems for measuring light, set up shop in Beijing this week.

Aislinn Rice, Andor technology's sales director, said, "This office is a logical extension of our focus on China, where our business has increased ten-fold."

TCS bags Bank of China deal

Beijing, December 3 (PTI) – IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has won a landmark deal worth US\$100 million from the state-run Bank of China (BOC).

All major Indian IT giants, including TCS, Infosys, Satyam, Wipro, NIIT, and i-flex have set up bases in China, targeting the huge software market, as well as the Japanese and South Korean markets.



TSA's Backscatter machines are designed to reveal weapons, but will still show body parts.
AP Photo

'Backscatter' nudity and traveler threat scores bring TSA controversy

Associated Press

Phoenix – The federal government plans to launch the US's first airport screening system this month that takes potentially revealing X-ray photos of travelers in an effort to find bombs and other weapons at Sky Harbor International Airport.

The technology, called Backscatter, has been around for several years, but has not been widely used in the US as an anti-terrorism tool because of privacy concerns. The Transportation

Security Administration (TSA) said it has found a way to refine the machine's images so the normally graphic pictures can be blurred in certain areas while still being effective in detecting bombs and other threats.

A handful of other US airports will have the machines by early 2007 as part of a nationwide pilot program, TSA officials said. The security agency said the machines will be effective in helping detect plastic or liquid explosives and other non-metallic weapons

that can be missed by standard metal detectors.

Some say the high-resolution images – which clearly depict the outline of the passenger's body, plus anything attached to it, such as jewelry – are too invasive.

But the TSA said the X-rays will be set up so the image can be viewed only by a security officer in a remote location. Other passengers even the agent at the checkpoint will not have access to the picture.

Comments

The terrorists won't use airlines again with all the thousand of other vulnerable areas in our country. We are just giving away our American rights.

– David Paul

It seems a lot of people constantly complain about lack of technology in airports to make travelers safer, but once a new concept or idea comes out it get shot to pieces by the majority. This is the world we live in now. Face it.

– tp

I will sacrifice a little privacy for added security anyway. The American Civil Liberties Union on the other

hand, wants to make it easier for terrorists.

– Tuf

Looks like we made our bed and now we have to sleep in it, or however the phrase goes. Let's think back a little further. If Americans didn't vote for a government who thought it had the right to police the world and play God, we wouldn't have to worry about terrorism on our soil.

– molly

Come on peoples! Your government is doing this only because it loves you. OK, maybe in a creepy kind of way, but it still loves you. But seriously, you should be grateful that your rulers care enough to do this to you. Anyone who is not for

this is an ingrate!

– Quis

Can I run the machine? It's a dream job if all the people being screened are the opposite sex.

– Confused American

I honestly have no problem with this as long as the TSA security officer doesn't see my face before I go in there.

– LAZ559

That's what makes us different than other countries, our founding fathers left one country to avoid this kind of loss of privacy. If you lay down your rights out of fear, you never deserved them in the first place.

– toofar

Sex offender puts 'murderabilia' up for auction

Great Falls Tribune

Convicted sex offender Nathan Bar-Jonah is selling his shoes, bifocals, art-work and even his hair online.

Thirty items ranging in price from US\$5 for a signed letter and envelope to US\$3,000 for police reports on Zach Ramsay's 1996 disappearance are for sale on the website murderauction.com.

"That's outrageous," Mikie Baker-Hajek, director of Victim-Witness Assistance Services in Great Falls, Montana, said. "Him trying to capitalize off a crime...

I'm appalled."

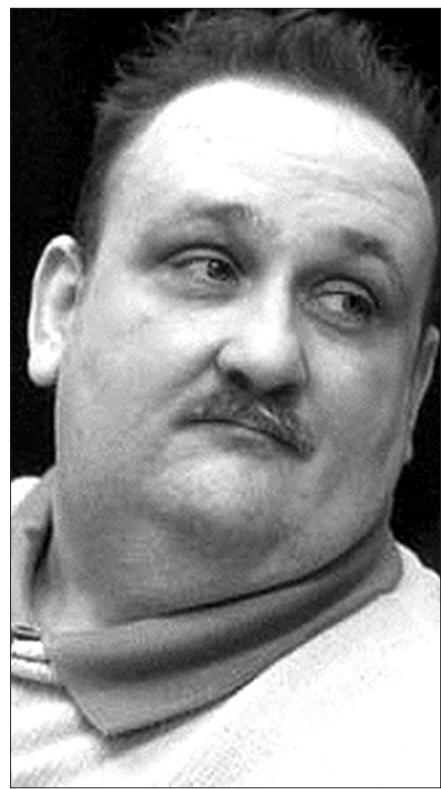
Bar-Jonah is serving a 130-year sentence in state prison for kidnapping, sexually assaulting and hanging a teenage neighbor from his kitchen ceiling. Homicide charges in Ramsay's disappearance were dropped when the 10-year-old's mother said she would testify that her son was alive.

Police allegations that he cannibalized Ramsay made Bar-Jonah internationally notorious and therefore made his belongings valuable, Andy Kahan, director of the City of Houston's crime victims office and a

national watchdog of what's called murderabilia, said.

The items first appeared on the website last week and already several have bids. His prison towel with a certificate of authenticity received the minimum US\$25 bid. Someone offered US\$50 for his black size 10 prison shoes. And two people are vying to buy his thermal socks.

According to Montana law, Bar-Jonah isn't doing anything illegal. His sentence does require him to give his victims what he earns in prison to help pay for counseling.



Nathaniel Bar-Jonah has posted 30 items at murderauction.com.

Photo by Great Falls Tribune

Comments

All the profits from the sale of these items should go to the victims' family or their selected charity or other beneficiary. We cannot allow a murderer or any of his friends and family to profit from murder.

– Confused American

Despicable. The sad thing is, people will buy his crap!

– Terry Archibald, USMC Retired

A sex offender serving such a sentence should have no remaining rights – especially personal property or uncensored mail of any kind.

– Ronnie Second

I was irritated to hear about this at first, then, out of curiosity. I visited the website, and looked for several minutes before becoming bored, and out of all the items posted, I only found one bid. So, I guess the public has spoken to the crim-

inals: You're not wanted in society, and your belongings aren't wanted either.

– KLR

As usual, the news reports neglect to investigate the interesting part. In this case, I could care less about what he's selling, or how or who thinks its appalling. I'd like to know just what a guy in on a 100 plus sentence thinks he's going to do with the money.

– David B

Weekly topics

New York Times (US)

- For 1,000 or more homeless in Hawaii, beaches are the best option
- Court reviews race as factor in school plans
- As auto prosperity shifts south, two towns offer a study in contrasts
- Op-ed contributor: When Iraq went wrong
- China pursues major role in particle physics

Toronto Star (Canada)

- Plane forced to land after passenger passes gas
- 85 percent of global wealth in hands of 10 percent
- Millions wasted, auditor finds
- Dion won't renounce French citizenship
- Mother ignored pleas before plunge

The Australian (Aus)

- Bushfire warded off from homes

- Murdered woman's boss 'a sick individual'
- Hurley loses out in ALP reshuffle
- N Korea 'refusing to restart' nuke talks
- AWB warns competition will slash prices

Guardian (UK)

- Criminals on probation murdered 98 in two years
- Britons to attend Iran's Holocaust conference
- Chirac TV takes on 'Anglo-Saxon imperialism'

- Ronaldinho helps allay Barcelona's fears
- Woolworths slump triggers fears of high street crisis

Newsweek (US)

- Taco Bell's E Coli outbreak
- Iraq: Top Dem wants more troops
- Gore says Hillary may hurt earth
- Deaths shut down heart drug trial
- Russia, the US and the WTO

(By Huang Daohen)

Charity helps deaf hear Olympics

By Jiang Xubo

As many as 300 deaf Chinese people will enjoy the upcoming 2008 Olympic Games, sight and sound, thanks to 'Listening 2008,' a multinational charity program launched by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Australian Embassy and Cochlear Corporate (CC) on the eve of World Disabled Day.

The program will offer partially subsidized Cochlear implant operations to about 300 people

nationwide suffering from hearing loss, especially children under 12 years of age from families unable to afford the operation.

Designed by CC, Australia-based bionic ear producer, the program aims to save beneficiaries a total of over 20 million yuan (US\$2.56 million) through financial subsidies of as much as 80,000 yuan (US\$10,225) per implant.

"In 2008, Beijing will provide job opportunities in entertain-

ment, and chances for interaction with people and cultures from around the world. The 'Listening 2008' initiative will enable about 300 deaf Chinese citizens to fully participate in this experience," Mark Salmon, president of the company's Asia and Pacific region, said.

Without the subsidy, the operation may cost a family a total of 300,000 yuan (US\$38,325) to cover the implant, operation

and basic rehabilitation, said Bian Weiguo, chairman of Chinese board of hearing aid equipment specialties, the NGO now selecting beneficiary families.

"Families can visit local civil affair authorities or company outlets across the country to apply for aid," Bian said. With the subsidy, total cost may be 160,000 yuan.

Potential candidates can call the board at 6592 0539 for further information.

Nobel Peace Prize winner visits Tsinghua

Mohamed El Baradei, 2005 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was granted an honorary doctorate by Tsinghua University, Tuesday. Later, Baradei gave a speech on nuclear powers.



Photo provided by Press Center of Tsinghua University

Foreign journalists enjoy more coverage

By Jiang Xubo

New media regulations will grant foreign journalists more freedom as the 2008 Olympic Games draws near.

The new regulations, released by the Foreign Ministry, will be in effect from Jan 1, 2007 to Oct 17, 2008, and will allow foreign reporters to travel the country and interview people without prior official

permission or companions.

"Foreign journalists will not have to apply to local foreign affairs offices for permission to conduct an interview. Only the interviewee's approval will be needed," Liu Jianchao, a ministry spokesman, said.

However, foreign media will not be exempt from current foreigner travel regulation, including travels

to western Xinjiang Uygur and Tibet Autonomous Region, he said.

Foreign journalists will be entitled to freedom of coverage on issues far beyond the games themselves. "They can also cover matters related to country's politics, science, technology, culture and the economy," Liu said.

The news was met with cautious optimism. "This is a welcome step,

but the proof of how valuable the new regulations will be will depend on their implementation," Melinda Liu, president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of China, said.

As many as 21,000 journalists, including photographers and cameramen, from around the world will register for the games' coverage, according to the Olympic organizing committee.



Ready for the show

CFP Photo

Classics of Europe displayed in China

By Chen Shasha

Forty-nine original works of Italian Renaissance art, including paintings by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael, opened at the Museum of Imperial City Tuesday.

The works, collected from the Bellini Museum, a private museum in Florence, Italy, are being exhibited for the first time in eight Chinese cities, with

Beijing as the last stop. The Bellini family began collecting and trading antiques and artwork during the Renaissance, and has become one of the most renowned private museums worldwide.

The exhibition is only open to experts and students now, but will open to the public from Dec 25 - Jan 31, 2007. Anyone interested can take the No 1 or 4 buses to Tiananmen Square station.

Rockets owner invests in Beijing real estate

By Chen Shasha

Leslie Alexander, former stock trader and owner of the Houston Rockets, a NBA team, announced he signed with South China Property International Limited to invest in Beijing World City real estate, Tuesday.

World City is located near China Development Bank and the World Trade Center, and covers 120,000-square-meters. "It's one of the most internationalized living areas in Beijing," he said.

"It's my first time to invest in China, and I hope investing in World City will be a good start," he said.

Alexander chose a 363-square-meter CEO house in World City. He said his decision to invest in the 'dynamic city' was prompted by Beijing's coming Olympic Games.

Maximo Park rocked in to town

By Annie Wei

Leading UK live band, Maximo Park, kicked off the six-month 'Bacardi Sino Sessions' (BSS), a series of monthly live shows in Shanghai and Beijing, last night in the Star Live, atop Tango, near Yonghegong.

Maximo Park's 2005 debut album, *A Certain Trigger*, was nominated for the Nationwide Mercury Prize in the UK. In 2006, the band sold-out their headline tour, with opening act The Arctic Monkeys, and headlined festivals from Bangkok to the seminal Reading & Leeds Festival.

"You do not know how it's going to be each time, but we got very emotional on the stage. People can understand our messages even if they don't understand (the language)," Paul Smith, lead singer, said.

The Queensea Big Shark, a local band known in expat circles, opened the show. Fu Han, singer for the band, said she loved Maximo Park's music. "You can feel they are working hard on the music and they devote themselves to it."

Maximo Park began preparing their second album this year, and their 2007 tour tickets in Australia and the UK have already sold out.

Football fans kick off for AIDS awareness



DaimlerChrysler (Mercedes) team won the championship.

Photo provided by The Red Ball Club

By Huang Daohen

Red Ball Club is known to the local *laowai* community as one of the city's main European football complexes. However, last Sunday, the club's football tournament was more than just for a good time; instead, it aimed to raise money for AIDS awareness. The tournament was one of

Beijing's biggest privately organized events for the commemoration of World AIDS Day this December.

The amateur five-a-side tournament was open to male and female players of all ages and skill levels. Up to eight company teams participated in the event, including BMW, DaimlerChrys-

ler (Mercedes), SPX Cooling Technologies, T-Systems, Ogilvy and Standard Chartered. There was also a "United Nations" team made up of different AIDS organizations, such as UNESCO, UNAIDS and the Bill Clinton Foundation.

In addition to the tournament, there was a display of art

work created by children whose parents have died of HIV/AIDS. Close to 100,000 yuan was raised that day for the Chi Heng Foundation (CHF), a Hong Kong-based charity organization, which provides educational and psychological support to children affected by HIV/AIDS in Central China.



Jeremy Railton

World's largest sky screen in new Beijing mall

By Gan Tian

Another luxurious, ultra-modern shopping center opens in Beijing next weekend, but what sets CBD's The Place apart from the rest is its 'sky screen,' a 250-by-30m television-like screen that runs the length of its main walkway's ceiling.

Designed by Hollywood stage designer Jeremy Railton, the screen is the biggest and only the second of its kind in the world. It took the designer ten years to complete Beijing's sky

screen and affectionately calls it "The Great Screen of China." The other sky screen can be found in Las Vegas, USA. "I worked for weeks trying to come up with an idea that was more impressive than the street itself," he said.

Railton has been working in Hollywood since the 70s. Over the course of his career, he has received four Emmy awards for designing The 57th Academy Awards, the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los

Angeles and the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. He also did the stage design for the recent Barbra Streisand tour and the new Cher Show in Las Vegas that is replacing Celine Dion's.

Railton hopes that when the Olympic Games comes to Beijing in 2008, his latest creation will become one of the major tourist attractions. The public can see the sky screen beginning December 15, when The Place opens to the public.

'Digital Life' comes to the city

By Chen Shasha

For the first time since it was introduced in New York in 2004, The Digital Life Show will travel outside the US. Digital Life is a huge electronics exhibition featuring all types of electronic gears and gadgets, and will give technofans

an opportunity see the latest trends in digital technology.

"It is an interactive exhibition, with all the booths open for visitors so they can enjoy the games test the products," Zheng Guihong, a member of the Digital Life Beijing committee, said.

Leading local and international companies such as Sony, Philips and Algo will participate in the exhibit, presenting their newest advancements in home theater, cable and satellite service, car digital products, digital music and home networking.

There will also be forums on such topics as the creative use of Windows XP and digital broadcasting in a private car.

The Digital Life Show will be held at the China World Trade Center from this Saturday to the following Monday. Entrance is free.

Wedgewood china comes to China

By Huang Daohen

Wedgewood, England's internationally recognized fine china company, has officially opened its first Beijing branch. The act was celebrated with a tour-brand-exhibition held separately in the Scitech

Shopping Mall and Yansha Friendship shopping center on Monday.

The launch is one of the activities to celebrate Wedgewood's 250th anniversary. "China is a country well-known for its skill in crafting porcelain. Chinese people have a

long tradition of porcelain appreciation, and that's why we've brought Wedgewood here," a Wedgewood official said at the expo.

Wedgewood has been synonymous with beauty, craftsmanship and innovation since its inception.

Founded in 1795 by Josiah Wedgewood I, known as the father of English potters, Wedgewood created the ornamental wares black basalt and jasper for which the company is still renowned, and perfected Queen's ware.

Travel planning without tears

By Huang Daohen

Hoping to escape to Lijiang, Yunnan Province during Spring Festival, but don't know how to get there? There's no more need to call a travel agent. As China has become an increasingly popular travel destination with westerners, internet travel guides have begun sprouting up in China.

One of them is Qunar.com, a search engine and price comparison site for airline tickets, hotel rates and tour packages. For example, if you're looking to fly to Shanghai at the last minute, you can find a ticket on the site for as low as 770 yuan. If you buy a ticket a week in advance, the cost is lower at 400-680 yuan. Going directly to the airline office for the ticket will run up a bill of about 950 yuan.

Founded in early 2005 by Douglas Khoo, CC Zhuang and Fritz Demopoulos, Qunar.com searches over 300 Chinese-language travel web sites. These search results provide users with real-time pricing information and other details from more than 20 airlines, 100 airline branches and 10,000 hotels servicing mainland China.

Art links east and west



Liu Xiuming

By Chen Shasha

For people who adore oil paintings, the works of Liu Xiuming, an Austria-based Chinese artist, is a must-see. "Liu Xiuming's paintings reveal a special kind of spiritual inspiration. The different concepts of eastern and western art are blended here," said Clodia Luhe Laolish, an Austrian art critic.

This weekend, Beijingers will get a chance to see more than 50 of Liu's paintings in a solo exhibit in Chaoyang. Inspired by the old pillar architecture she saw in Hangzhou last year, her art works are classified under three themes: 'new scenery,' 'new horizon' and 'another space.' Liu said that Hangzhou's pillars, "which were different from Greece and Austria's, seem to link the east and west."

Born in Hebei Province in 1957, Liu studied traditional Chinese painting at Hebei Normal University. After graduating in 1982, she worked as an art editor at the China Youth Press. One day, impressed by a German expressionist's art exhibition, she decided to pursue further studies in Austria, and has since made the country her artist's base.

Liu's exhibit will run from December 10-23 at the Today Art Museum in Baizhuan Road, Chaoyang.

Winter wonderland of thrills and spills



Your first downhill may be a little more sedate.

By Huang Daohen

This winter seems to be hesitating to give Beijing a proper snowfall. A cold spell this week, however, has brought the city's temperature down to minus five degrees Celsius and put ski lovers in the mood for some action.

Anyone who has taken to the slopes will tell you that skiing is the winter sport to beat them all. It's perfect timing, then, that the city's ski resorts are now back in business. They offer equipment for rent and have skilled instructors for those who need a crash course in the sport.

Preparation

Any experienced skier will tell you that hurtling down a snow-covered slope at the speed of a car makes huge demands on the mind and body. Skiers need to be physically fit, ideally with a good pair of lungs, and have the concentration level of a cat stalking a mouse.

As one enthusiast says, when it's blindingly white all around you, it's easy to be lulled into an almost hyp-

notic state. If you don't stay alert, before you know it, you might find yourself half-buried in the snow. So take time to learn the basics before attacking the slopes and you'll eventually learn how to complete a run – still standing upright!

Equipment

Skiing has always been done on a conventional pair of skis, aided by a spiked pole attached to each wrist. And the essential apparel: rain- and snow-proof outerwear, a crash helmet and sunglasses to guard against the glare.

Warning

As a beginner, you may soon feel confident after only several hours on the skis. You may be tempted to try the advanced slopes, which frankly, have been given that name for a reason. So resist the temptation and take it slow! Also beware of racing down the hill against your friends. There's no sense in being the fastest if you'll be taking two broken legs to the finish line.

Where to go

Nanshan Ski Village

Located in Sheng-shui-tou Village in southern Miyun County, Nanshan Ski Village is 60km from Beijing's Sanyuanqiao. They have three ski slopes: advanced (length 1,500m, width 20m), intermediate (500m, 25m) and beginners' (300m, 80m).

Getting there: By car, an hour on the Jingmi Highway. Buses are available at Dongzhimen Long Distance Bus Station.

Price: 180 yuan (regular), 280 yuan (weekends)

Tel: 8428 6688 (Beijing), 8909 1909 (Miyun)

www.nanshanski.com

Shijinglong Ski Resort

This resort is ideally located in the national environmental model zone at Yanqing. Shijinglong claims to be the largest and best-equipped ski resort in Beijing.

Getting there: You can drive to Yanqing County on the Badaling Highway. By bus, take the air-con-

ditioned No.919 from Deshengmen, then transfer to No.920 at Yanqing Bus Station.

Price: 180 yuan (regular), 200 yuan (weekends)

Tel: 6919 1617

www.sjlski.com

Beijing Snow World Entertainment Center

Also with artificial snow and, thus, open for business 270 days each year, this ski resort is located near the Ming Tombs in Changping District (some 36km north of Sanhuan Lu). Their two ski slopes, with lifts and illuminated at night, are for intermediate and advanced skiers.

Getting there: If you're driving, take Badaling Highway's exit 13B. By bus, you can take No 919 from Xiguahuandao, Changping District, and transfer to mini-bus No 3 for the final leg of the journey.

Price: 150 yuan (regular), 150 yuan (weekends)

Tel: 6708 3218, 8976 1886

www.xueshijie.com

ASK Beijing Today

1. I invited Chinese friends to visit my country, but they didn't seem hopeful. How difficult is it for Chinese to go abroad?

It's not just difficult but troublesome. If it's not a business trip or part of a tour group, an individual has to handle all the paperwork on her own. This includes securing bank statements and employment records, approval from her local Public Security Bureau and sponsorship letters from the country he or she plans to visit. The chances of getting an approval also vary from embassy to embassy. The best thing is to consult the embassy of the destination country.

2. Friends are visiting Beijing next week and their schedule's packed since they only have four days. I want to rent a taxi to the Badaling Great Wall, what do you think's a reasonable price?

First of all, how many people are going? If a taxi is big enough to pack everyone in, it will cost about 400-500 yuan per day. If you want to hire a van, it's around 800 yuan. If you want to hire a tourist bus, it's between 1,400-1,800 yuan, depending on the type of bus.

3. I'm 25 and got a job in a big Chinese company. I was very happy when I first came to the office but later on found that colleagues were sleeping in the office. Some women act like children and like to gossip. Any suggestions on how I can live with this?

We understand that the situation may seem strange to you, but it's actually normal behavior in the Chinese workplace. We brought up your question with expats who have adjusted well working with Chinese people. They suggested that if you cannot deal with the cultural differences, try finding a job in a foreign or joint-venture company.

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The Diablogues

"Someone said productions didn't love. When I heard that, I thought about it for a time. I finally came to the conclusion that it's not who don't feel the love in my plays actually understand them."

"In this weekend's short dramas, 'Love Is Like A Cigarette' prevails them through the various narratives, be they love, family love or abusive love."

- Xavier Froment, director of The Three Oranges Production

Three Oranges Production

Spreading



By Han Manman

Expanding boundaries

Three Oranges Production is an innovative theater company founded by three youths on December 10, 2003: French theater director Xavier Froment, French actress Laetitia Zappellini (known to Chinese audiences as Li Jixia, a long-

time member of the China National Mine and Coal Troupe) and Chinese artist Qi Jian.

The company recruits talented young Chinese and French writers, directors and actors with the goal of expanding the boundaries

of Chinese theater, exploring new ways of creative expression and attracting new audiences.

Most of the company's productions are created, arranged and directed by Froment. He adapts European plays for the

Chinese audience, not only translating them into Chinese, but making the cultural nuances understandable to local audiences. He also revisits Chinese works, injecting interesting new angles into old stories.

Three years after Three Oranges was established, all actors already profess a deep attachment to the troupe. One of the actors, Liu Yang, said whenever they have a play, they perform with all their heart. "I can't forget one of the free performances we had. Our audience was made up of migrant workers who were just taking time out to relax. They brought along bricks so they could sit on them and watch us. During the performance, they would sometimes roar with laughter or scream out loud. We were so moved. We knew those were real emotions, that they understood what we were conveying."



Love Is Like A Cigarette

The French costume designer speaks with troupe members



Although eating a plot, we are really hungry



The French costume designer speaks with troupe members

The Three Oranges family
Photo by Zhang Lei

Third anniversary offering

For its third year anniversary, Three Oranges will present some of its most acclaimed playlets, together with a series of brand new ones. Three new plays are already being rehearsed: two are famous classical tales and one international smash hit. As always, they have been rearranged with the Chinese audience in mind. Comic, absurd or pro-

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Director Xavier Froment
Photo by Zhang Lei



Li Jixia performing in Kidding Death



Practicing for The Breasts of Tiresias in Xavier Froment's home

Photos provided by
Three Oranges

See the drama

Where: Haidian Theater, No 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian
When: 7:30pm, December 8 and 9
Admission: 50 and 100 yuan, 20 yuan (students concessions)
For more information, visit 3092005.com or call 133 4111 5750.

love all around



One-on-one with Froment

As a place where the troupe rehearses almost every day, it's not surprising that Froment's home is a bit disorganized. Finding a seat proved to be a challenge in itself. When you walk in, the first thing you'll notice is a wall of drama records and DVDs. We later learned this represents only a small portion of Froment's collection. A big iron-chain shelf occupies the opposite wall, which holds a poster showing a scene from *The Breasts of Tiresias*.

Despite his busy schedule and the frenzied activity in his house, we managed to corner Froment to talk about his three-year-old theater group.

Q: How did you come up with the name Three Oranges, and how would you categorize your performances?

A: The name comes from the Love of Three Oranges, a beloved Russian drama. I don't like it when people try to classify our type of performance. We have no type; we just perform whatever we like and hope the audience will like it too. It's that simple. Some people always want to know what the play is about and how they should respond to it. We don't want to be like teachers, telling our

viewers what the play is about. What you think about the play and the performance is your business.

Q: Why did you choose to establish a career in China?

A: I studied theater in Paris and after I graduated, I did some theater acting in France. Eventually, I felt like I needed a challenge. Before I reached 25, I wanted to experience something totally different from the life I had, had. I hoped to go to a country with a strikingly different cultural background. I studied some Chinese in France, so China for me was the best choice.

Q: Who chooses the plays you perform, and what are your standards for selecting them?

A: The choice is mostly mine, but my actors also help from time to time. I prefer plays that have never been translated into Chinese or shown in China. At this point, I'm already fluent in Chinese and have completely adjusted to the culture, but I make adaptations in consultation with the actors.

Q: Aside from performing with Three Oranges, do your actors hold other jobs?

A: Some of them do. To be honest, in the three years since we've set up the troupe, we've done a lot of free shows, and so far, our expenses exceed our earnings. Lately, we've set up commercial performances specifically to make money. But all our actors love what they're doing so much that the rest don't matter. Laetitia Zeppellini is quite famous in Beijing since she's been active in the Chinese theater, doing crosstalk, Peking Opera and short plays. She has perfect Chinese and talks like a native. However, as a foreigner, she has always needed to pretend to act dumb in order to make the audience laugh. She's grown tired of that, so she's happy with the troupe where she can do performances she enjoys.

Q: What plans do you have for the future?

A: The next drama we're focusing on is entitled *My Wife Maurice*. Aside from a group in Japan, we're the only other troupe in Asia that got permission from its copyright holder, French writer Raffy Shart. If things go smoothly, we will have an Asian tour that will cover Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.

found, they are linked by the theme of love.

The anniversary show at the Haidian Theater today and tomorrow is comprised of eight short plays. One of the highlights is Francis Poulenc's comic opera *The Breasts of Tiresias*. Based on a text by Guillaume Apollinaire, the play imagines women and men exchanging gender roles to predict-

ably ridiculous theatrical effect. One of Froment's actors revealed that for this play, he needed to be naked and pinioned on an iron chain shelf for 20 minutes.

On Sunday, audiences will have a chance to see the new playlets and theater acts. There will also be an opportunity to interact with the actors and get to know them better.



Consider the Lobster: And Other Essays

By David Foster Wallace
352pp, \$17.13 (Amazon.com)

Master essayist David Foster Wallace delivers smart laughs at a culture turned upside down in *Consider the Lobster: And Other Essays*, his latest book.

Though born in Ithaca, New York, Wallace grew up in Illinois, America's Midwest: a land where nothing has ever happened, and nothing ever will happen. Raised in a land where the only activities are raking leaves and watching 24-hour TV full of infomercials for spray-on hair replacements, he digests the madness of modern

America in a way few other modern essayists can.

The Lobster takes readers for a ride through his interpretation of modern America and asks "hard-hitting" questions like Do lobsters feel pain? and just how inconsistent is "American Usage" with the use of good usage?

Be warned: Wallace can be difficult to read. In his essays, he embraces abbreviation of everything and anything and frolics in his lengthy footnotes. He reads like a blogger, but with the biting intelligence of a master essayist.

What topics are covered in this latest essay collection?

Wallace, known best for his expansive metafiction, traverses a wide swathe of territory, swinging from a consideration of pornography to a reading of John Updike (perhaps not such a stretch), from the 2000 campaign trail of Republican John McCain to reflections on Kafka and Dostoyevsky, and from Bloomington, Illinois, to lobster-trawling Maine.

— Mark Eleveld, *Booklist*

What themes are explored in *The Lobster*?

These pieces, previously published in Rolling Stone, Harper's, Gourmet magazine and the Atlantic Monthly, explore three broad themes: language, literature and US society.

— Robert McCrum, *The Observer*

I've heard Wallace isn't as well received in the UK as the USA. Why is that?

Part of our trouble with Wallace is that he is singularly American and exceptionally hard to define. Raised in the Midwest, the source of so much great American writing, his frame of reference is 24-hour TV, the dark gods of American consumerism and the baffling freak show called national politics. If that didn't make him irresistible to the British reader, Wallace is also as original and disturbing as a computer worm. Subversive and hip, with a mind tuned to a different frequency, Wallace is singing a song in a key we've not heard before.

— Robert McCrum

What can existing fans of Wallace expect to find in his latest book?

To those who have already met Wallace in books such as *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again*, this new collection demonstrates a contemporary American master working at the extreme edge of the radar, asking question after question about the mad, mad world in which he finds himself.

— Robert McCrum

What can new readers expect to find on their first plunge into Wallace's world?

Footnotes! Wallace was pioneering this territory long before Dave Eggers. He loves nothing better than a vertiginous plunge to the foot of the page. He is the self-appointed president-for-life of the American Subscript Society. To Wallace, a footnote is the equivalent of the concert pianist's cadenza, the moment he can depart from the score and dazzle us with his virtuoso gifts.

— Robert McCrum

Is there really so much fun in footnotes? Is it just a ploy to appear postmodern?

His trademark footnotes, essays in themselves, rarely fail to entertain — if you can follow them. But a few critics ask whether this collection exhibits more high jinks than actual intellectual insight; the arrows and boxed comments in the essay "Host," for example, may just obscure a Very Important Point. But that may be the point to get you thinking about much more than the lobster.

— Bookmarks Magazine

Postmodernism appears a lot in the work of bloggers. Does its overuse detract from Wallace's power as an essayist?

Humorous, engaging, albeit a bit perplexing in his style, he is a little too trendy in his postmodern use of boxes, arrows, footnotes and so on. But when Wallace is on the mark, few can compare in craft and craftiness. And there is enough that is uncool here to make

CONSIDER THE LOBSTER

And Other Essays

David Foster Wallace

Author of *Infinite Jest*



it cool in a truly culty sense.

— Mark Eleveld

Is anyone safe from Wallace's wit?

Wallace's ferocious snootiness makes him a fearsome literary critic. There are not many American novelists at work today who would relish taking a swing at John Updike. But in his review of *Toward the End of Time*, Wallace not only bounds into the ring, but also cheerfully lands a vicious left hook on the writer he calls a GMN (Great Male Narcissist). In its way, Wallace on Updike is as definitively and brilliantly destructive as Mark Twain on 'the literary offences' of James Fenimore Cooper.

— Robert McCrum

What sums up Wallace's approach?

This is strong stuff. Wallace's blithely assertive manner helps him cover much rhetorical ground very quickly, even if a firmer belief in understatement might have helped him avoid such unhelpful generalizations as "our present culture is, both developmentally and historically, adolescent."

— Pankaj Mishra, *The New York Times*

Are there any downsides to this collection?

Only four of the original ten essays are here, but each is formidable. In *Consider the Lobster*, the author rambles around the Rockland [Maine] Lobster Festival, a veritable orgy of lobster murder, speculating on the morality of cooking and eating a sentient creature. In the next piece, "The View From Mrs. Thompson's," listeners feel the effects of 9/11 on ordinary folks in middle America.

— S.J.H., *AudioFile*

(By Derrick Sobodash)

Local shelf

Early-Start Potty Training

By Linda Sonna

McGraw-Hill, 224 pages, 115 yuan

While parents around the world successfully potty train their children well before preschool, the United States has moved away from this early introduction. However, there's no evidence that later is better — in fact, there's significant reason to believe it can be detrimental.

Written by a respected child psychologist, *Early-Start Potty Training* shows why the early-start method is preferable to the commonly used readiness method. Waiting until children show signs of readiness can hold them back from preschool, cost a fortune in diapers and lead to health problems. The early-start method avoids these concerns by starting the training process as early as six months old.

Working Woman's Art of War

CHIN-NING CHU
INTERNATIONAL BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF
DO LESS ACHIEVE MORE, THICK FACE BLACK HEART
& THE ASIAN MIND GAME

Working
WOMAN'S
ART of WAR
WINNING WITHOUT CONFRONTATION

from glass
slippers to
combat boots

By Chin-Ning Chu

AMC Publishing, 294 pages, 175 yuan

Written and designed for women in the 21st century workplace, Chin-Ning Chu's *Working Woman's Art of War: Winning Without Confrontation*, offers timeless, proven tactics derived from the 2,500 year-old Chinese classic, *Sun Tzu's The Art of War*.

Working Woman's Art of War shows how to turn liabilities into assets, swing 'blue moments' into opportunities, the difference between a trophy wife and a working woman, channeling the rage of sexual harassment into a tool for advancement, simultaneously embracing family and career, overcoming gender discrimination, dealing with other women's professional jealousy, possessing style as well as substance and a whole lot more. The book is essential reading for every career woman in any field — at any level.

Available:
Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang
Tel: 6586 9507

Francesca's Party

By Patricia Scanlan

Bantam, 592 pages, 72 yuan

When Francesca Kirwan's husband leaves his mobile phone behind, what she discovers tears her world apart. Rather than give in, she decides to stand up for herself and soon has a new job, new friends, a new lifestyle, a new man — and a chance for revenge!

The dialogue is crisp and intelligent, and there are plenty of amusing scenes that will have readers cheering for the modest heroine. Scanlan shows that living well is indeed the best revenge.

Available:

Foreign Languages Bookstore

Where: 235 Wangfujing Dajie
Tel: 6512 6903

(By Han Manman)



Makye Ame's Tibetan-style BBQ lamb

Photo provided by Makye Ame

The authentic taste of Tibet

Makye Ame: bringing the taste of Tibet to Beijing

By Chu Meng

Makye Ame is one of the oldest Tibetan restaurants in Beijing. Travelers to Tibet may have come across their branch in Lhasa. Recently, the restaurant opened a second Beijing branch opposite St. Regis Hotel.

To give their food that real Tibetan flavor, they source their ingredients from the snowy pla-

teau itself. Their house specialty is the yogurt buffet, offering yogurt made using original Tibetan methods. Priced affordably, customers can try out the Yogurt with Eight Delicacies, Tsampa Balls and Yogurt with Sapo (called ginseng fruit in Chinese).

Snow Lotus Chicken Soup (68 yuan) or Yak Bone &

Marrow Soup (58 yuan) make for good appetizers.

Recommended dishes include *tashi-delek* (beef braised in brown sauce with carrots, cheese, and yak marrow) and the chicken with corn and juoma (a vegetable reminiscent of black bean that grows on the Tibetan plateau). Tibetan-style nan bread is good for sopping

up sauces.

The English menu also features several grain spirits, commonly mixed with yogurt and served in silver goblets.

The friendly service and colorful, upbeat atmosphere make for a lively dining experience. It has become a "home away from home" for many travelers who have fallen in love with Tibet.

Makye Ame

Branch 1: 2/F, South Silk Street, behind the Friendship Store
Open 10am-2am
Tel: 6506 9616

Branch 2: 2/F Golden Lake Garden, 23 Baijiashuang Dongli, Chaoyang (next to Beijing Youth Daily Plaza)
Open 10am-2am
Cost: 100 yuan per person

Authentically Tibetan cuisine

By Chu Meng

This restaurant not only has a Tibetan chef, Tibetan music and authentic Tibetan ingredients, it also has every Tibetan dish you could ask for. One of their specialties is white yak meat. Given the yaks' small number (there's only one white yak per 150,000

Tibetan people) and their high-altitude habitat, they are a prized delicacy. In addition, the restaurant offers fresh and tender baby lamb meat, from 10-day-old lambs.

Aside from the food, Gesangmedo's ambience will also transport you to Tibet. It's located in a



Gesangmedo's yak meat

bustling street, but the tranquility and simplicity of the place make it easy to imagine you're on the remote Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

For those who love their drink, Gesangmedo has a good selection of bracken and barley liquors brought in by air from Tibet. So bring some friends over and enjoy

a new dining experience.

Gesangmedo

Where: Southwest corner of Xindong Road, Dongzhimenwai, next to the Canadian Embassy
Open: 11am-2am
Tel: 6417 9269
Cost: 100 yuan per person

Photo provided by Gesangmedo

Traditional flavors of Tibet

By Chu Meng

The Jolmo Lungma Hotel is where you'll find the Tibet Autonomous Region's office in Beijing. It's not surprising, then, that the dishes served here preserve the traditional flavors of Tibetan cuisine. Among their specialties are Tibetan barley liquor, butter tea, yak meat and tsampa.

A particular customer favorite is the hand-torn yak meat. Prepared using traditional methods, the meat comes out a bit tough, but still delicious. If you want to enjoy it to the fullest, you're strongly advised to eat with your hands. Nothing beats the experience of tearing the meat along its grain before putting it in your



Tibetan yogurt and spicy mutton

mouth and slowly savoring it.

If you order their roast lamb, be prepared to be served with ceremony. The meat is placed on a food cart which the chef wheels to your table. He then slices the roasted lamb leg Tibetan-style, using a traditional Tibetan knife. Afterwards, the meat is wrapped in small pancakes made

of Tibetan barley, and served with a sweet sauce. As a staple in Tibetan dining tables, the meal truly satisfies.

Jolmo Lungma

Where: 149 Gulou Xidajie, Xicheng
Open: 10am-2am
Tel: 5867 0228

Photo provided by Jolmo Lungma

Dining in the heart of Tibet

By Gan Tian

Neighboring the Tibet Building and China Tibetology Research Center, King Gesar is the place for anyone who wants a typical Tibetan meal.

Their Whole Toasted Sheep is a must-have. Although the dish is served in every Tibetan restaurant, King Gesar's stands

out because their cooking truly captures the flavor of Tibet. The mutton is served on a big plate and sliced in front of you by the chef. When you finally get a taste of it, you might just decide to finish off the whole thing on your own!

The restaurant's atmosphere radiates the grandness of Tibet;



Traditional food - tsampa

the place is bathed in deep blues and golds. Even their waitresses' long Tibetan gowns are made out of deep blue fabric.

Every evening, from 8-10pm, they hold Tibetan performances. So you don't only get to enjoy the food, but also songs and dances that take you to the heart of Tibet.

King Gesar

Where: F/2 Tibetan Bath Plaza, Beiyuan Road, Northern Fourth Ring, Chaoyang
Open: 11:30am-2:30pm, 5am-12pm
Tel: 6496 4318
Cost: 100 yuan per person

Photo provided by King Gesar

Turkey Set special offer

The Turkey Set at Peter's Tex-Mex Grill (International Club, 21 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang) is now down to only 89 yuan. The offer's good until December 17. For details, call 8532 2449.



Buffet dinner special offer

The Turkey Buffet Dinner at Grandma's Kitchen (11 Xiushui Nanjie, Chaoyang) is on a 198 yuan per person special price until December 17. For details, call 6503 2893.



Eighty yuan off purchases

Spend over 200 yuan at Ito Yokado shopping center (Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng) and get 80 yuan off your purchases until December 12. For details, call 6831 2255.



Clothes at half-price

Buy cashmere and wool at Fu Xing shopping center (Nanlishilu, Xicheng) and get 50 percent off the original tag price until December 10. For details, call 6856 2107.

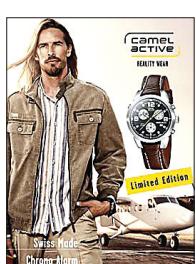


A fifth off cheong-sam



Get custom-made cheong-sam and grande toilette at Na Fei Ya (Shuangjing, Chaoyang) and get 20 percent off the price. The offer lasts till December 9. Call 5876 6630.

Gift voucher worth 150 yuan



Spend 200 yuan at Camel Active in Xin Dong An shopping mall (Wangfujing, Dongcheng) and get a voucher worth 150 yuan until December 10. Call 8261 0106.

Gift voucher worth 120 yuan



Spend 200 yuan at Teenmix in Xin Dong An shopping mall (Wangfujing, Dongcheng) and receive a voucher worth 120 yuan until December 10. Call 8261 0106.

Forty to fifty percent off dinner

Enjoy Peking Duck and hot pot at Long Tan Bai Wei restaurant and get 40-50 percent off the standard price until December 15. For details, call 6716 5580.



Forty percent off salon services

Hairdressing services at Ye Zi beauty parlor (93 Jianguolu, Chaoyang) are 40 percent off the published price until December 9. For details, call 5820 3202.



Forty percent off dry cleaning

Dry cleaning services at Xiang Wang laundry (Wangjing Xilu, Chaoyang) are 40 percent off the usual price until December 8. For details, call 6479 5411.



Thirty percent off hot pot

Eat at Red Peacock hot pot restaurant (16 Taorantinglu, Xuanwu) and pay 30 percent off the usual meal price (except for beverages) until December 17. For details, call 8355 7335.



Twenty to forty percent off shoes

Selected pairs of Belle footwear at Lan Dao Plaza (8 Chaowai Dajie, Chaoyang) are 20-40 percent off until December 8. For details, call 8561 7838.



Twenty percent off at Pierre Cardin

Selected Pierre Cardin products at Lan Dao Plaza (8 Chaowaidajie, Chaoyang) are 20 percent off until December 8. For details, call 8561 7838.



Twenty percent off clothes

The newest clothing items at Sept Wolves at Jin Yuan Yan Sha (1 Yuandalu, Haidian) are 20 percent off until December 10. For details, call 8887 3800.



Fifteen percent off at Converse

Selected Converse items at Xidan Shopping center (120 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) are 15 percent off until December 10. For details, call 6656 5800.



(By Terence Lu)

**Send us your discounts & offers.
Email us: bjtoday@ynet.com
or call: 6590 2626**



Most Phillips household appliances at Lan Dao Plaza (8 Chaowai Dajie, Chaoyang) are ten percent off until December 8. For details, call 8561 7838.



Shoes at Staccato in Lan Dao Plaza (8 Chaowai Dajie, Chaoyang) are ten to 50 percent off the original price until December 8. For details, call 8561 7838.

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Stage in January, 2007

Music 2007 Beijing New Year Concert

Who: Beijing Symphony Orchestra
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, January 1
Admission: 80-880 yuan

Vanderbilt Symphony Orchestra

Who: Vanderbilt Symphony Orchestra (US)
Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, January 1

Admission: 80-1180 yuan

Classical Chorus

Who: SK Chorus (Germany)
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,
January 5-6

Admission: 80-680 yuan

China Symphony Orchestra 2006-2007 Season

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, January 13

Admission: 30-280 yuan

Richard Strauss Works

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nanlu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,
January 21

Admission: 50-680 yuan

Dance

Who: Russian Samara State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,
January 1-2

Admission: 120-880 yuan

New Year Ballet Concert

Who:
National Ballet of China
Where: University of Beijing Concert Hall, inside University of Beijing, Haidian

When: 7:30pm,
January 1-2

Admission: 150-380 yuan

Thousand-armed Guanyin

Who: China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,
January 24-25

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Little Birch Tree Dance Troupe

Who: The Little Birch Tree Dance Troupe (Russia)
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nanlu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,
January 28-31

Admission: 120-880 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Friday, December 8

Exhibition

The Sounds – Wang Jie
Solo Exhibition



Where: Wan Fung Art Gallery, No 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng
When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until December 12
Admission: Free
Tel: 6523 3320

Ren Jingqin Solo Exhibition



Where: Melodic Gallery, No 14 Jianguomenwai Dajie, opposite Friendship Store, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-4:30pm, until December 25
Admission: Free
Tel: 6515 8123

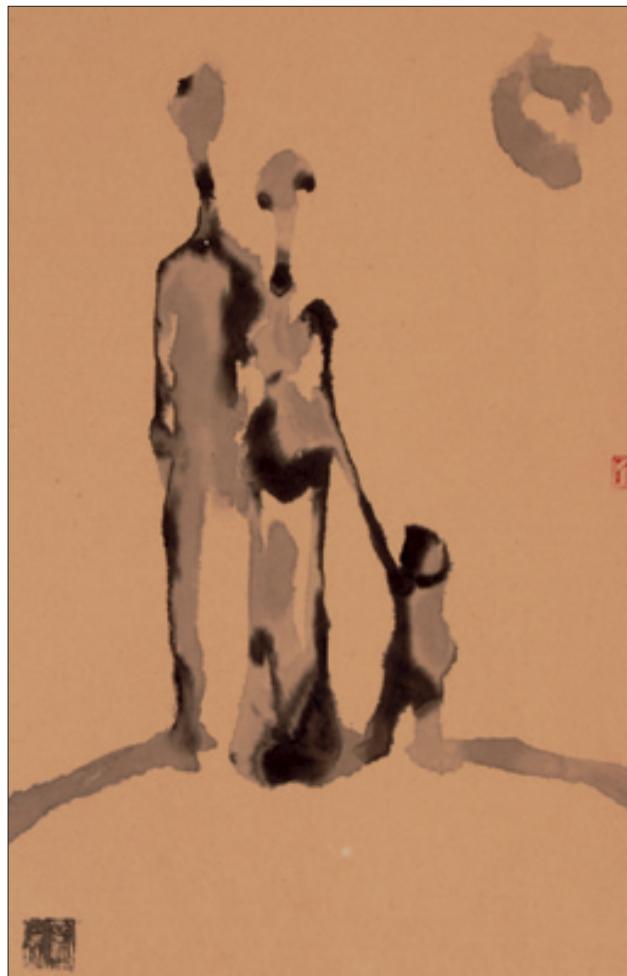
Movie

Un coeur en hiver



Stephane and Maxime run a well-respected violin making and repair business. When man-about-town Maxime falls in love with violin virtuoso Camille, Stephane – whose only relationship is a platonic one with a bookshop owner – takes interest in this new girl in Maxime's life. Camille grows attracted to him, but finds his cold lack of response puzzling and irritating.

Where: French Culture Center, No 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang
When: 8pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Saturday, December 9

Exhibition

Pure Painting – Ji Dachun Solo Exhibition



Where: Soka Art Center, B-103, Sky & Sea Business Plaza, No 107 Dongsi Beidajie, Dongcheng
When: Tue-Sun 10am-9pm, until December 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 8401 2377

Modern Times and the Oriental – Solo Exhibition of Korean Artist Kim Yoon

Where: Creation Art Gal-

lery, north end of Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-7pm, until December 15
Admission: Free
Tel: 8561 7570



Movie
La Marche de l'Empereur
The lifecycle of emperor penguins is revealed in this wonderful documentary. Every autumn, the penguins leave the safety of the ocean and march twenty days to a place called Oamack. Once there, they select their mates, breed,

protect and feed their offspring and, after months, return to the sea.

Where: French Culture Center, No 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang
When: 3pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Sunday, December 10

Exhibition

Scenery From Heart – Xu Jiangyue Oil Painting Exhibition



Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until December 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 4122

Tong Zhengang's Oil Painting Works



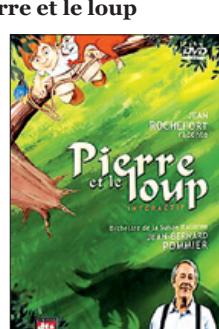
Where: Yan Club Arts Center, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-6pm, until December 19
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3506

Yair Lior Solo Exhibition

Where: Rain Gallery, Dashanzi Art District, No 4

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-6:30pm, until December 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 3274

Movie Pierre et le loup



An interesting music animation directed by Michel Jaffrennou.
Where: French Culture

Center, No 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang
When: 3pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

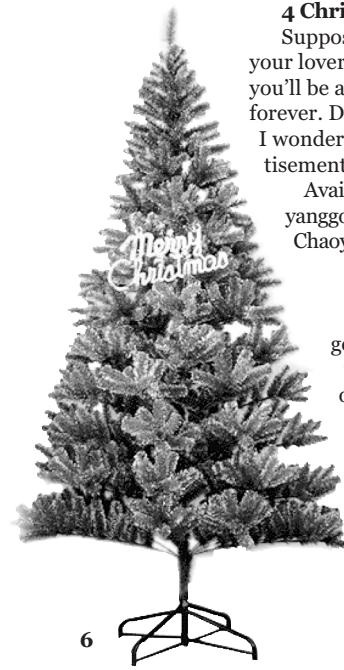
Outdoor

Learn to make hand-pulled noodles and dumplings

Learn to pull your own noodles and fold your own jiaozi! Two cooks will teach visitors and expats Chinese culinary secrets. No pre-payment necessary: attendees can pay on arrival.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, inside Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 2-4:30pm
Cost: 150 yuan (includes all materials)
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041



6

4 Christmas wreath
Supposedly, if you kiss your lover under the mistletoe, you'll be able to be together forever. Do you believe the ad? I wonder if it's only an advertisement ...

Available: IKEA, No 1, Taiyanggong Road, Dongbahe, Chaoyang

Price: 5 yuan

5 Straw goat
This stupid-looking goat is connected to the Christmas season only by its red ribbon. The goat will 'rock' your season with a wonderful 'Christmas' anthem, "waving its

Available: IKEA, No 1, Taiyanggong Road, Dongbahe, Chaoyang

Price: 99 yuan (28cm), 9.9 yuan (small)

6

7

8



9

“Naughty and nice” gift ideas



8

1 Santa Claus model
It's so old. I'm tired of seeing the same fat man, clad in red and sporting a snowy beard. How about a sexy, young Santa with hot rippling muscles and short pants? Women would certainly enjoy Christmas more! But if all else fails, "classic" Santa is still a choice.

Available: Piaoliang Supermarket, B/1, Sunshine Plaza, Anli Road, Yayuncun, Chaoyang

Price: 245 yuan

2 Wrapping paper and box

You always need something to wrap your package. You wouldn't want it totally uncovered, right ... especially if it's a big one. A nice box and festive wrappings can make what's inside even more enjoyable.

Available: every supermarket in town

Price: 5-10 yuan

3 Christmas card

A card can be a little bit controversial – you either love it or hate it. Know why? Cards show your popularity: the more cards you get, the more popular you are. When I was a kid, I only got three per year. Sympathy anyone? Send me one and ease my pain!

banner all over the place."

Available: IKEA, No 1, Taiyanggong Road, Dongbahe, Chaoyang

Price: 59 yuan

6 Christmas tree

Red isn't the only Christmas color. Green Christmas trees need some attention this holiday season too. Just be careful leaving the goat anywhere near it – he might be hungry.

Available: B/2, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 100-250 yuan

7 Candle set

No candles on Christmas Eve? Are you crazy? Candles are the perfect décor for that steamy, romantic ambience. Where will you stick that burning thing? Why in an IKEA candle set, of course. The way the light flickers against the translucent glass is dreamy ...

Available: IKEA, No 1, Taiyanggong Road, Dongbahe, Chaoyang

Price: 99 yuan (28cm), 9.9 yuan (small)

4

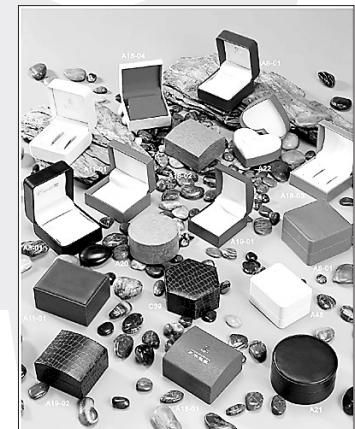
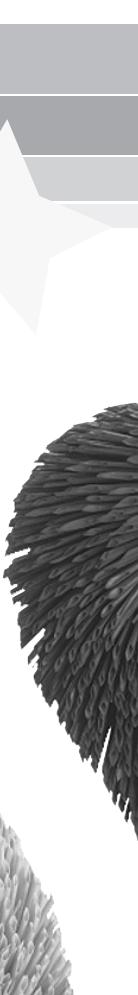


10



By Gan Tian

When I was wondering whether it was too early for a Christmas shopping page, my editor said, "You should have thought of this before Thanksgiving!" Oops! I guess adults are getting ready for Christmas early too, not just the kids!



2

8 Pet clothes

This one isn't for you! Some festive pet clothes might help put Fluffy in the holiday spirit. I think it would be a great gift coupled with a few bones. Don't neglect him this year – puppies his age still believe in Santa!

Available: No 45, Xinjiekou Nandajie, Xicheng

Price: 49 yuan

9 Sexy Mrs. Claus dress

Suitable for you or your girlfriend on a wintry bedroom romp, but don't wear it outside. It's far too cold outside for this dress. Mmm ... bedroom. How many times will Christmas come this year? My windows are getting steamy already.

Available: jsbjk.com/product.asp?id=1045

Price: 290 yuan

10 Decorations on the tree

Bells, balls and ribbons will make your tree a more impressive sight than your neighbor's. I bet you've had your eyes on theirs for a long time, haven't you? Admit it!

Available: IKEA, No 1, Taiyanggong Road, Dongbahe, Chaoyang

Price: 20-100 yuan



3



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Photos provided by IKEA Beijing

By Chu Meng

Eating disorders can begin as a diet, childhood trauma or a burning wish to be size zero. They can be a killer, but they can also be overcome.

"Meals can be an ordeal for anorexic girls when dessert is compulsory. Anorexia nervosa was identified and named in the 1870s in western countries. It flourishes in cultures where slim models are idolized and food is abundant. Now, it's creeping into China as western fashion ideals penetrate the minds of young Chinese girls," Kong Qingmei, one of China's specialists in anorexia, said.

Anorexia Nervosa

Defining characteristics

Anorexics are unwilling or unable to maintain a normal body weight for their age and height. Most clinicians use 85 percent of normal weight as a cutoff point. Anorexics fear gaining weight, and dread becoming fat even when dramatically underweight. Concerns and perceptions about their weight have an extremely powerful influence and impact on their self-evaluation.

"When I came into the treatment clinic, I was so gone I did not know what a normal meal looked like," Shelly, 25, an anorexic patient at Beijing University No.6 Hospital, China's first and only treatment clinic for eating disorders, said.

Anorexia nervosa is recognized as having two subtypes determined by behavioral patterns: "restricting type," where anorexics maintain weight by restricting their food intake and compulsive exercise, and "binge-eating or purging type," where they restrict eating, and also engage in binge eating and purging. Purging methods include self-induced vomiting, and abuse of laxatives, diuretics and enemas.

Low self-esteem and a tremendous need to control their surroundings and emotions are common among anorexics. The disorder is often a reaction to external and internal problems like anxiety, stress and unhappiness.

Profile

Anorexics are usually extremely sensitive about being fat, or have an intense fear of becoming fat. Low self-esteem and constant need for acceptance leads to obsessive dieting and starvation as a way to control not only weight, but also feelings and actions regarding their emotions.

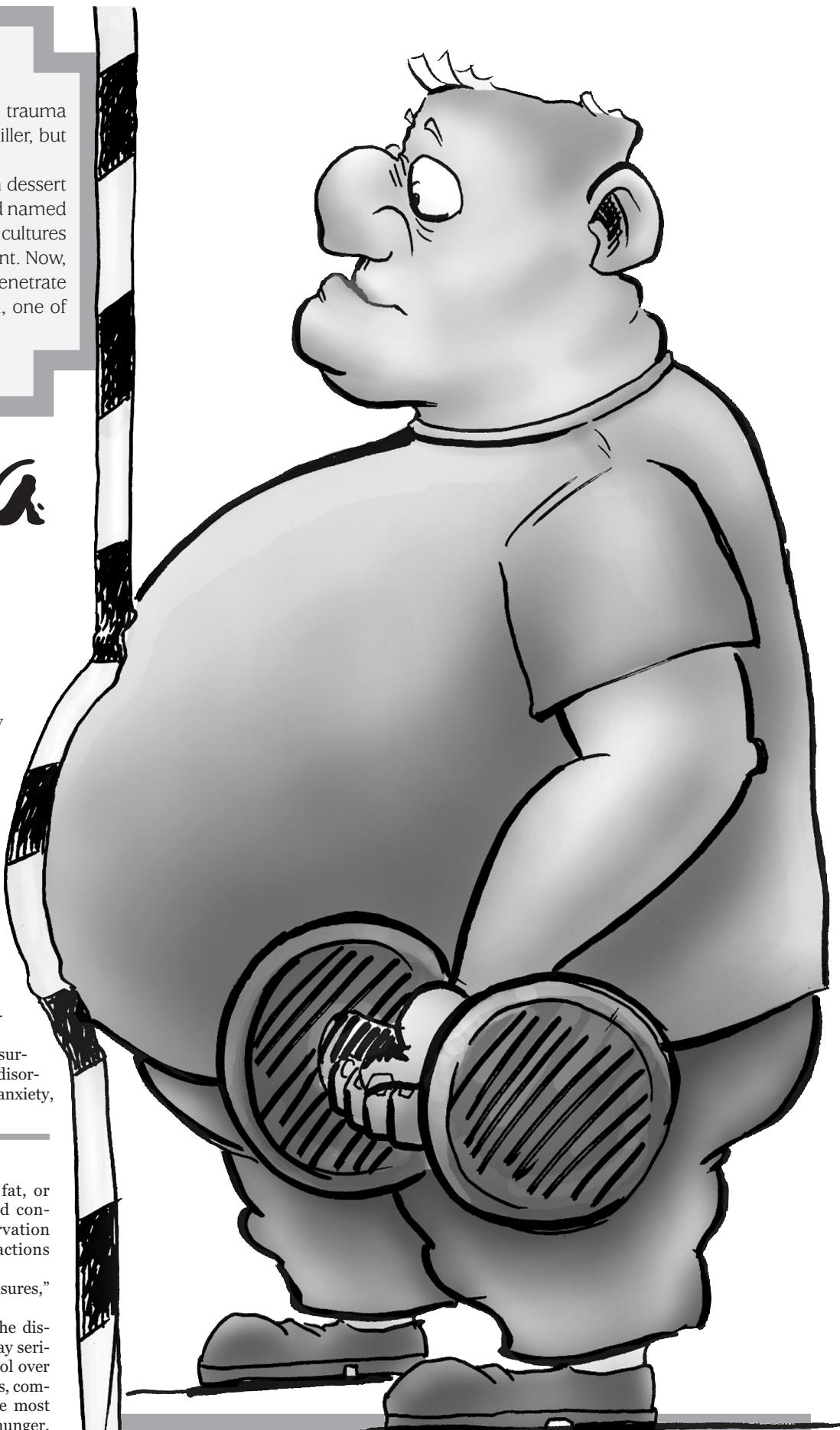
"Many anorexics feel they don't deserve life's gifts and pleasures," Kong said.

She said there are numerous ways an anorexic exhibits the disorder, and parents who notice signs in their children should pay serious attention. "The anorexic attempts to maintain strict control over food intake. Periods of starvation, obsessive counting of calories, compulsive exercising and/or purging after meals are among the most common symptoms. In some cases, an anorexic will deny hunger, make excuses to avoid eating, hide food they claim to have eaten or attempt to purge the food away with self-induced vomiting, or by taking laxatives," she said.

Diagnostic criteria

The following definition is used by mental health professionals to diagnose anorexia nervosa:

1. Refusal to maintain body weight at or above a minimal normal weight for age and height. For example maintaining a weight less than 85 percent of the normal, or failure to gain weight during a period of growth resulting in less than 85 percent of the normal.
2. Intense fear of gaining weight or becoming fat, even though underweight.
3. Disturbance in the way in which one's body weight or shape is experienced, undue influence of body weight or shape on self-evaluation, or denial of the seriousness of the current low body weight.
4. The absence of at least three consecutive menstrual cycles.
5. Binge-Eating Type or Purging Type: during the current episode of Anorexia Nervosa, the person has regularly engaged in binge-eating OR purging behavior (i.e., self-induced vomiting or the misuse of laxatives, diuretics, or enemas).



Facts About Anorexia Nervosa:

- A. There are two types of Anorexia Nervosa: restrictive type and binge eating/purging type.
- B. Females are 90-95 percent of people with Anorexia Nervosa.
- C. It affects 1 in 2,400 adolescents.
- D. It typically develops in early to mid-adolescents.
- E. Psychological problems are displaced onto food.
- F. It is usually preceded by dieting behavior.
- G. Unusual table manners are practiced.
- H. Commonly have a need to vicariously enjoy food by cooking it, serving it or being around it.
- I. Preoccupation with body weight and image.
- J. Dieting becomes increasingly important.
- K. Denial of the condition can be extreme.
- L. Body image disturbance (misperception of body size and shape) is common.
- M. Pronounced emotional changes are common.
- N. One-third of anorexics subsequently develop Bulimia Nervosa.

Common purging behaviors include:

- A. Self-induced vomiting
- B. Diuretic abuse
- C. Laxative abuse
- D. Emetic abuse
- E. Excessive exercise
- F. Fasting



Mountains of food are served by Nanning's vendors.

Photo by Simei

In Guangxi, Nanning has nothing but dining

By Annie Wei

Years ago, I wondered what foreign tourists were doing in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region capital, but since the city makes headway in urban and economic developments, NGOs for poverty and AIDS have been coming in.

Since becoming the main host city for China-ASEAN conferences, the city has grown into a hub for tourists bound for Guilin and small border towns in Yunnan and Guizhou. You can always spend a day or two before moving on to a more exotic location.

The Zhongshan food street, tucked away behind the Yongjiang Hotel along the main river and the commercial zone, has the most dining outlets and is a must-see for travelers. A modest meal-for-one starts at less than 10 yuan. A 100g bowl of beef and rice noodles is 2.5 yuan, and dessert can range from 1.1 – 2.5 yuan for herbal tea, rice-skin dumplings or duck blood soup.

Herbal tea, or liang cha, literally means "cool tea." Due to Nanning's hot and humid climate, locals boil the mixed herbs in water for a drink – a tradition to balance the warm and cold in



Visiting old Nanning

File photo

one's body. Finding a proper cup of coffee may be impossible in Nanning, but you'll find plenty of shops with liang cha. The flavor depends on the herbs used. The bitterest herbs are recommended for dry throat.

A night out is a must for visitors and locals alike. Around 9pm, the street is packed with food vendors and shouting, eating, beer-drinking diners. It has a very warm atmosphere, similar to Thailand's dining areas.

The city's buildings are very special. The architecture is a combination of traditional southern-Chinese style and colonial western architecture. While the second floors of homes are reserved for residents, the ground floors are open mom-and-pop shops. The architecture reflects the climate of Nanning.

and the first-floor shops provide customers shelter from the city's sun and rain.

Even though Nanning's local library has recorded much of the city's history, when the Guangxi Daily ran an article about the city's architecture, they couldn't find the origins of many of the city's streets.



The night starts

Photo by Mai Peng

Weather

Nanning is in the subtropics and has plenty of sunshine and rain in summer. The average temperature is 21.7°C, and 12.8°C in the coldest month. Avoid traveling there after Spring Festival, the coldest season, as it gets very humid. It feels even colder inside the house than outside, because China has no heating south of the Yangtze River.

Language

Due to government's promo-

tion of *putonghua*, most of the young and middle-aged people can speak and understand without a problem, but they have a strong accent.

The traditional language, *baihua*, is a division of Cantonese. Due to mixed minorities, the city is home to many dialects.

Where to eat

Zhongshanlu: The night dining runs from about 6pm to 5am. Packed with more than a hundred restaurants and food vendors, the street sells rice noodles, dumplings, BBQ, congee, fried snails and fish. Aim for the ones with the most diners.

Jianzhenglu Nan'erli: Another alley with more than 50 vendors, it sells local snacks, Beijing style fried chestnuts and Wuhan duck necks.

Yuanhulu: The congee



Dishes are served on food street

Photo by Mai Peng

shops here are famous. Four each claim to be the "King of Congee." Locals care little, so just pick a different one each time. Congee is an important food in the South.

Xiili, Yuanhulu: In the alley near Yuanhu Primary School, there are more than 10 vendor-style fish BBQ restaurants. Each has around ten tables.

Seafood Wholesale Market in Fujian Yuan: This market has become popular since 2003. Originally a seafood wholesale market, it spawned many of the low-price restaurants that attract tourists to the coast. It's a 3.5-hour commute from Nanning to beach city Beihai. Fresh seafood is delivered to Nanning daily at midnight, so it's best to visit during the "am hours." The seafood changes seasonally, so there's always something new.

Transportation:

Seven flights daily from Beijing to Nanning: 2,050 yuan one-way (discount possible)

Trains from Beijing to Nanning (T5 direct express and T6): 500 yuan (hard sleeper), 29 hours

Bus routes within Nanning.

Weekend trip: Living in luxury by the Great Wall

By Annie Wei

When my friend, Andy Friedman, asked me where to throw a birthday party, I remembered the Great Wall Commune.

Located just off the Shuiguan exit on Badaling Highway, the Great Wall Commune is a 'private collection of contemporary architecture by 12 Asian architects.'

The collection opened in 2002 with 11 villas and one Commune club, but another 31 villas, a kids' club, spa and fitness room were not

opened until Kempinski, the well-known hotel, joined management this September.

My first trip to the commune was in Fall 2003. The commune's cool architecture and décor grabbed me. Many lifestyle and fashion magazines talked about it and showed extremely cool pictures. From the pictures alone, I fell in love. Owning a place there or just spending a weekend with friends and family, with its clean air, would be a dream come true.

While I was on the second floor of the Distorted Courtyard, the scene shocked me! Such vivid green and nicely trimmed roads and gardens, and my friends decked out in beautiful dress! When they looked up and saw me in the window, they said I resembled a beautiful photograph – framed by the villa's white walls and wooden floor.

It was a great chance to visit all 12 buildings for free. If you go on your own, you have to make reservations and pay 120 yuan.

While visiting one of the villas, a worker told us to leave by 5:30 pm because the guests had arrived. When I saw two couples with their children entering the house, I overheard the villa's cost was 8,000 yuan per night.

Last weekend was my first visit since Kempinski took over management. I had planned a free visit to see all 31 villas, but because the event was arranged late, it was too dark to see anything. Besides, late November is too cold a time to be in



Looking off Cantilever terrace

Photo provided by Kempinski Hotel

the mountains.

For more information, visit kempinski-thegreatwall.com.



From left to right: Early morning – almsgiving ceremony, village youth playing, detail of Wat Xieng Thong, bird's-eye view of Luang Prabang, and the giant vegetation

Photo by Maja Linnemann

Laos: Tasting, Temples, Trekking

By Maja Linnemann

If Beijing's busy life has you blue, a getaway in Laos might be just the thing to brighten your mood. Laos is home to six million people – less than half the population in Beijing, but in an area even larger than the UK.

Lonely Planet says the notion of 'too much work being bad for your brain' is part of the Lao mindset. Traveling Laos during the National Week holiday with my friend and seeing the people's relaxed attitude was a jolt after living in China. Even the approach of Lao vendors was different from what's seen in China – especially in the country's tourist traps. When my friend asked the price of a shirt in Luang Prabang, the owner was having a backroom siesta and told him to bring her the shirt so she could quote a price. Apparently getting up for a business deal was too much effort.

Setting off

For our Laos journey, we set off from Mengla in Yunnan province and took the 9am International Border Shuttle Bus to Luang Namtha, about 30km across the Laos border. The vehicle was a well-worn minibus with lots of empty seats. Empty seats are important when, at the bus's next stop, furniture and appliances are hammered into every empty bench and aisle.

After entering Laos, a chain-smoking Chinese bus-mate helped us buy some local food. Shunning the barbecued frogs and rats, we opted for sausages, an eggplant dish and sticky rice – the Lao staple served in bamboo tubes. The eggplant dish was good, but very spicy. Being the first meal of the day, it nearly burned out my stomach lining.

We overnighted in a Chinese-run hotel in Luang Namtha for US\$3. In the afternoon, we rented two mountain bikes and rode to a temple. The road was lined with wooden and bamboo stilted houses and shops amongst palms, banana trees and other tropical plants. I had seen them in Beijing's flower markets, but here they were larger and more magnificent.

The bus to Luang Prabang left at 9:30am sharp. I was surprised because I was told there were no reliable departure times in Laos, and traveling usually involved waiting for hours until the vehicle would be crammed to the roof. Half of the seats were empty when we left, and we picked up only a few passengers on the journey. The scent of rich, tropical air wafted in the bus windows.

Temples and minorities

Luang Prabang is a small town surrounded by greenery and is a major tourist attraction for its

numerous temples, called 'Wats.' There are many French-style houses from the colonial times, some of which have been renovated into guesthouses and restaurants. Early risers can observe the almsgiving ceremony where the monks, clad in bright orange robes, walk the streets at 6am 'begging' for food.

Apart from historical and cultural sites, the city offers hiking, rafting, kayaking, cycling and elephant rides in the nearby mountains. We signed up for a two-day hike through the Khamu and Hmong villages. The hike started in emerald green rice fields and passed teak forests and other tropical vegetation. At noon, we stopped in a Hmong village. Unlike in Vietnam, Laos's Hmong no longer wear traditional costume.

In the evening, we came to a Khamu village where we spent the night. Our guide prepared a nice meal for us, but did not join us for dinner. Neither did the family where we stayed. The villagers had more interesting things to watch than us: while we had to content ourselves with candlelight, the neighbors had a generator and a TV set. We were told two-thirds of the village gathered in their house every night at 7:30pm to watch a video. The other third – unwilling or unable to pay – stole a glimpse

through the wall.

Hiking the hills of Laos

At 8pm, all lights went out and we finished off our 'Beer Lao'. There was nothing to do but sleep. In the morning, we awoke to an animal chorus: their song started with 'cock-a-doodle-doo', and was joined by chicken, ducks and pigs. On the second day, we hiked up and down more hills, and through forests and riverbeds. It rained during the night, and the paths were muddy and slippery.

Back in town, we ventured to the night market, where budget travelers gather at two 'Vegetarian buffet' tables in a narrow side street. One plate of delicious veggies cost US\$0.5, and could be upgraded with barbecued chicken, pork and whole fish. There were food stalls with "real" Laotian food, but they had neither tables nor plates – only plastic bags! The only things convenient to try were the tasty raw or fried spring rolls. Bring your own plastic containers and spoons when traveling in Laos. Our meal was finished with a cup of Laotian coffee – considered one of the best in the world.

Our bus to Vientiane left at 7:30am. My friend stressed the Chinese guidebook said one stretch of the road was unsafe. Lonely Planet mentioned 'Hmong rebels,' but said since 2004 things had

calmed down. Our bus enjoyed the company of a discrete gentleman with a machine gun. Under his protection, we reached Vientiane before nightfall. The quiet and laid-back atmosphere was beaten under the jackhammers of roadwork, like a miniature Beijing. The Bun Nam Festival, which coincides with Mid-Autumn Festival, was being celebrated on the banks of the Mekong River.

On our last evening, we saw seemingly the entire population of Vientiane stream to the fair. Everywhere, people sold bouquets with a candle. The candles were lit, and the bouquets were lowered into the river. A few young boys in the jostling crowd would, for a small fee, plunge with people's offerings into the dark waters.

The next day it was back to speedy Beijing, my backpack heavy from a winter's supply of Laotian coffee beans.

Transportation

Daily direct bus to Vientiane from Kunming at 5pm: 32 hours, 380 yuan

Daily bus from Mengla to Luang Namtha at 9am: 5-6 hours, 32 yuan

Daily flights from Kunming to Vientiane

Accommodation:

Guesthouses: US\$2-15 or more



Wat Xieng Thong in Luang Prabang

I was once unsure about what I wanted to do after graduation. But after having worked with Perfect, I know I've finally found my place. During the company's written test for interns, there was a question about how a person should choose his friends. Confucius once said that people should choose friends who are better than themselves. However, I think people should not make friends with that intention. Making friends should be done with the heart. Maybe I was chosen to become an intern because of my sincerity.

As a new intern, I made a lot of mistakes during my first couple of weeks. The audit department's work needs precision and emphasis.



Tan Dehong graduated from Huazhong University of Science and Technology with a Bachelor's in finance management in July. In August, he did his internship at the company's audit department, and three months later, received a full-time job offer.

sizes objectivity and impartiality. In such a department, small mistakes can lead to big trouble. I remember that a mistake I once made led to my colleague's sending the wrong email to the boss. That put my colleague and my department in a tight spot. How-

ever, the mistake was already made, so there was no use for regrets or complaints. The only thing I could do was to solve the problem and try to prevent the same mistake from happening again. From that time on, I've been much more careful.

Our company puts a lot of importance on a person's moral values and doing charity work. I've changed for the better because of what the company's taught me. I remember, once, during a meeting, we saw a documentary about a little girl who was living in a district with severe water scarcity. We saw how difficult every day life was for her and were shocked by what we witnessed. We couldn't believe that in this modern age, there were still areas as poor as that. After the meeting, we discussed how we could help those people, and decided to donate 250,000 yuan to help them install running water. I was so moved when I saw what the company did for charity and became even more certain that I had chosen the right company to work for.

Comments from Zhou: The audit department needs staff who can exercise fairness in their daily work. So when we interviewed job applicants, we tested not only their knowledge, but also tried to look deeper into their character. Tan graduated this year and didn't have any audit-related experience, but during the interview, I was impressed with his sense of fairness. He also demonstrated logical thinking and a clear mind, so we decided to give him a chance.



The Perfect motto: To be successful is to have a heart

When I finished my four years of college and brought home in southern China dozens of boxes filled with books, I said that I hoped the company I worked for will give me plenty of opportunities to learn. When I joined Perfect, my first job was to organize the entire staff's reading meeting. I shared my book review and reading experiences with each team. At the time, I began to understand that the company wanted to create an atmosphere of continuous learning.

Every month, we have a company meeting. At that meeting, our president and our department manager will talk about their life experiences. Afterwards,

By Han Manman

Perfect Co., Ltd. is a Malaysian company founded in 1994, which markets a wide range of consumer goods such as health food, household equipment and skin-care products.

"These three staff members joined Perfect less than a year ago. We chose them not only because of their academic achievements, but also their ability to focus on details. Companies need good workers who will regard the company as their 'home'. At the same time, people want to work for good companies, which can provide them with opportunities for career advancement. If you put the two together, it's a win-win formula: the staff and the company can grow together."

Many graduates misunderstand their internship or probationary period. They believe that if they perform well, everything will be okay. However, time tests a man's true heart, so we put more emphasis on perseverance. Perseverance and tenacity are two essential characteristics of a successful man."

— Zhou Xiang, human resources manager, Perfect Co., Ltd.



Gong Shilei obtained a Bachelor's in Chinese language and literature from Shanxi University last year. He began his internship in April, as an editor's assistant, in the culture and communication department. In August, the company invited him to work full-time.

as we sing the *Endeavor*, I feel like I really belong to the company.

What impressed me most with Perfect was my experience with them last Mid-Autumn Festival. The company was giving out moon cakes to all its clients and staff members, and on the boxes, they wanted someone to

write ancient poetry. The task was assigned to me. Although that was part of my work, I still received a letter of acknowledgement from the company. And to my surprise, my mother phoned me that evening to say she also received a letter from the company, giving thanks for my contribution. I was really moved.

Comments from Zhou: Guo is a modest guy. When he came to the interview, he brought along a lot of articles that he had published in newspapers and magazines. During the writing test, Guo showed good writing skills and logical thinking. This year, when our company sponsored a big musical production in honor of Sun Yat-Sen's 140th anniversary, Guo wrote a poem for the drama, perfectly expressing the company's lofty ideals.



Zhou Wenzhen graduated from Shunde Polytechnic School last year with a Bachelor in economic management. She started her internship with the marketing department on May 15, and three months later, got offered a full-time job.

pany placed a big order to give them a chance to recover. The supplier's company president apparently broke into tears when he heard of Perfect's decision. Now, this company has become one of our closest business partners.

I admire the wisdom exercised by our company leader in that situation. I still remember the president's words: as children, our parents teach us how to be real men. Running a company is the same thing. Some clever businessman may have immediately demanded compensation, however, we should react in a more humane manner. My boss's words remind me that to be successful, one should first become a real human being.

Comments from Zhou: Although Wenzhen is a fresh graduate without much work experience, one of her assets is her vast experience in organizing school activities. She was chief of her school's project planning department and her experience is reflected in her organizational, communication and writing skills.



International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo comes to Beijing



1. Kingssoft's 108 Heroe's stage

2. A student's art work in the design competition

3. A student-designed logo for the Cross-trait book fair

By Qiu Jiaoning

The first International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo (ICCIE) will be held in Beijing from December 10-14. "ICCIE will be a grand visual, creative and ideological feast integrating culture, creativity and modern technology both at home and abroad. The expo focuses on the

integration of cultural and creative industry resources to build a complete industry chain and promote the export of China's cultural and creative products," an ICCIE Committee spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

The expo's curtain will rise on the evening of December 10, with a grand theatrical performance,

at the Great Hall of the People. Beginning on December 11, there will be a host of exhibits, forums, trade fairs, creative activities and theatrical performances in various parts of the city. Over 300 guests from more than 40 countries will take part in the event, while locally, around 20 cities and provinces will send repre-

sentatives to the event.

Exhibitions

The ICCIE's main expo site is the China International Exhibition Center, which will display the latest developments in China's cultural and creative industries. The nine specialized exhibitions are: radio, film and television; creative design; news,

publication, printing and copyright transactions; cultural tourism areas and products; animated cartoon games; cultural performing arts industry; arts and crafts; cultural and creative industry bases; and city outdoor sculpture show.

Aside from the China International Exhibition Center, there will also be exhibits at various major Beijing museums, including Beijing's National Museum, Capital Museum and Palace Museum.

Forums

ICCIE's main forum is on the development of cultural and creative industry. Aside from this, there are subforums for such topics as copyright protection and copyright trade; radio, film, and TVE industry development; and current trends in the cartoon, flash and gaming industry.

Trade fairs

During the expo, various trade fairs will be held. The aim is to highlight the cultural and creative industries of various provinces and cities, and to introduce cartoon, flash and network gaming services and software. There will also be an auction of cultural relics and artworks.

Creative activities

Content-rich activities have been organized to stimulate interest and involvement in creative work. These activities include painting and calligraphy exhibitions, design competitions for college students, and an awards ceremony for outstanding gaming products by Chinese creators. The event Cultural and Creative Festival of College Students of the Capital City aims to highlight the creative skills of Beijing university students via a design competition.

Art Performances

Aside from the art performance, which will unveil the expo, there will be a series of other shows reflecting traditional and modern Chinese culture. This includes the Beijing International Dance Performance and the Chinese People Cultural and Creative Carnival. Dance troupes from Germany, Norway, Russia and Korea, together with China's Central Ballet Troupe, will present a total of twenty shows.

NO.	ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
1	(1) Cultural and Creative Industry Comprehensive Exhibition Area	Dec.11-14	China International Exhibition Center	Hall 1-1A
	(2) Design Creation Exhibition Area			Hall1-1B
	(3) Radio, Film and Television Exhibition Hall			Hall1-2A
	(4) Press Publication & Printing and Copyright Trade Exhibition Hall			Mr. Wang Peng (8610)88070335
	(5) Cultural & Creative Industry Center Exhibition Hall			Mr. Zhang Haocheng (8610)88070385
	(6) Cultural Attraction and Commodity Exhibition Area			Hall1-2B
	(7) Crafts & Painting Art Exhibition Area			Hall1-3A
	(8) Game & Animation, Cartoon Exhibition Hall			Hall 8A
	(9) Cultural & Performing Arts Trade Exhibition Hall			Hall 8B
	(10) Public Sculpture Exhibition Area			Outdoor Area
2	Excellent Cultural Relics of Museum Collection Exhibition	Dec.1-31	Capital Museum, Palace Museum, Chinese National Museum, Beijing Art Museum, The Geological Museum of China, etc	Mr.Gao Xiaolong (8610) 64042770

NO.	ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
1	Forum on Visual Art Industry and Development of City Culture	Dec.11	Crown Plaza Beijing	Mr. Lin Zengwei (8610) 8221076
2	Forum on China Enterprise Copyright	Dec.11	Zhejiang Hall of the Great Hall of the People	Mr. Ma Zheng (8610) 84251195
3	Park Topic Festival Activity Innovation and Development International Forum	Dec.11-12	The Cultural Palace for Nationalities	Ms. Zhang Lihui (8610) 68186098
4	Radio, Film & Television Development Forum	Dec.12	The China Millennium Monument	Mr. Wang Jian (8610) 65159097
5	China Games & Cartoon Industry Development Forum	Dec.12	Huangyuan Hotel	Mr. Man Xingwei (8610) 84251813
6	Advertising Design and Creativity Forum	Dec.12	Radisson SAS Hotel Beijing	Mr. Ren Baoli (8610) 82691108 Mr.Chen Shijie (8610) 85235029
7	Summit on China Cultural Restructuring and Successful Cases of Cultural and Creative Industries	Dec.12	University, Chiatai International Center	Mr. Wang Xihan (8610) 62767249
8	The Performance Industry Development Summit	Dec.12	Crown Plaza Beijing	Mr. Shen Chunyou (8610) 62216711
9	Advanced Forum on China Brand Culture	Dec.12	Chongqing Hall of the Great Hall of the People	Mr. Zhang Huanqi (8610) 68817653
10	Forum on China Picture Industry Development	Dec. 13	Lecture Hall at the 3rd Floor of the Office of The First Newspaper	Mr.Jie Guiyun (8610) 58630180



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Country's cartoon and gaming industry booming

By Gan Tian

China's cartoon industry has steadily been growing in recent years, and the International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo is just the ideal opportunity to showcase these latest developments. Chinese cartoons are

hoping to make a niche in the industry, alongside with such established names as Disney animation and Japanese anime.

Comicfans Culture, which publishes China's biggest cartoon magazines, will be part of the exhibit. They will put on display the wide

range of products they have created over the years, including many new works that will be shown to the public for the first time. Comicfans has also invited a number of top Chinese comic writers to the scene to give fans a chance to interact with them.

Kingssoft Company, one of China's biggest software companies, will present clips from its 108 Heroes gaming program on a wide screen. Promotional products, such as cups, bags, and computer mouses, will be given away to lucky participants.



Comicfans Culture's stage

Youth Power:

Students take lead role in promoting creativity, culture

By Gan Tian

Creative activities are a big focus of the International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo. From the lineup of activities, you can see that Chinese students are taking an initiative in promoting the country's creative and cultural industries.

From antiquity to modernity

Beijing University's Cultural Industries Institute has organized performances under the theme "From Sifang to Wuhuan".

The shows portray ancient and modern-day Chinese life, and show the differences between the east and the west.

Sifang is a Chinese word which means four directions. It also refers to ancient China's four constellations of divine animals: Qinglong (Blue Dragon), Baihu (White Tiger), Zhuque (Red Bird) and Xuanwu (Black Tortoise). The Chinese believe that Sifang is the origin of creation, and thus, represents old concepts. Wuhuan, on the

other hand, is a modern perception, referring to the five continents and the Olympics Games.

Where: Front grounds of the China International Exhibition Center

When: 10am-1pm, December 11

The search for inspired work

The Beijing Students Union has organized a competition, an exhibition and an awards ceremony for art works using various media. Since the competition launched this October, the organizers have received more than 100 submissions from as many as 50 universities.

"Many forms of works are submitted to us, including pictures, DVs and models. We are really delighted that there are so many new ideas coming from students," Organizing Committee Spokesman Wang Zijun said.

Where: Main Hall of the Beijing Conference Center

When: All day, December 11

Creativity festival for students

The festival, made up of an exhibi-

tion, a dance and a recommendation meeting, has been designed especially for Beijing college students. One of the works to be exhibited is the Numerized Forbidden City, a numerical computer model of the palace. Other students have designed machinery and architectural plans that can rival professionally made ones. The recommendation meeting will help these talented students match up with companies, transforming their ideas into commercial ventures.

Exhibit

When: All day, December 10-14

Where: 1A, Hall 1, China International Exhibition Center

Dance Show

When: 7:30-9:30pm, December 12

Where: Beijing University Hall (Bai-nian Dajiangtang), Beijing University

Recommendation Meeting

When: 2:30-3:30pm, December 12

Where: Conference Hall, North One Section, International Culture Building, Capital Normal University

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December 24 18:30pm - 01:00am
Set Ticket: RMB 1388 net
(For two persons with one night accommodation in a Superior Room)
Additional benefits per set ticket:
RMB 688 net for 3rd person
Or RMB 288 net for one child between 3-12

Note: - Party favours and exquisite candies from Santa Clause. - Children ticket is not entitled to lucky draws.

Regal Palace Splendid Gala Night

Regal Palace Theatre Restaurant
Beijing's only Las Vegas-type entertainment palace presents a spectacular entertainment show
By an exclusive performance crew, highlighted with dazzling lighting and gallant costume.
A generous buffet featuring well-selected seafood, signature international cuisines,
An array of seasonal vegetables and fruits as well as a gourmet island of desserts.
Chef on site is ready to serve the mouthwatering roasted turkey.
Various funny games as well as grand lucky draws.
December 24 19:30pm - 00:30am
RMB 988 net for VIP seating
RMB 888 net for regular seating
RMB 488 net for one child under 12

Note: - Party favours and exquisite candies from Santa Clause. - Children ticket is not entitled to lucky draws.

Christmas Market at the Gourmet Corner
Venue: Hotel Lobby Period: November 28 to December 25
A breathtaking display of season gifts including Luxury Christmas Hamper Gifts, delicious Chocolates, delicate pastries...
Special Christmas gifts tailored to specified requirements: Turkey, Gammon Ham, Ginger Bread House...
Christmas out catering service for family and corporate is also accessible.

Booking Hotline: 010-67731234-3930 or 010-87789888-222

DAYS HOTEL & SUITES
Regal Palace Theatre Restaurant Chinese Cuisine House

27, Hua Wei Li, Chao Yang District, Beijing 100021, P.R. China
Tel: 86-10 6773 1234 Fax: 86-10 6773 3456 Website: www.dhsbj.com E-mail: sales@mail.dhsbj.com



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"Big names" to attend forums

By Gan Tian

Several internationally renowned figures will arrive in Beijing for the International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo (ICCIE). As many as 700 local and international guests will attend the expo's forums, including government officials, experts in the creative and cultural industries, and CEOs of various enterprises.

The ICCIE's organizing committee said that the forum has attracted the attention of developed countries. Eighty percent of the participants come from the US, Britain, France, Australia, Korea, and Japan.

The VIPs include: Michel Guerry, a French senator; John Hawkins, dubbed the Father of the Creative Industry; Bud

"Guy" Tribble, Vice President of Software Technology at Apple Computer; Tsutomu Sugiura, Adviser to the Marubeni Research Institute; Beatrice Kaldun, a UNESCO representative; Michael Keane, research fellow at Queensland's University of Technology; Jacques Lange, President of the International Council of Graphic Design Associations; and Larry Ziebarth, President of HHCP Design International.

A special forum, Creative City Talk, will focus on how to integrate creativity into daily city life. Other topics include trends in the international creative industry, how Beijing's creative industry can meet global standards, and how to integrate the creative industry with business enterprises.